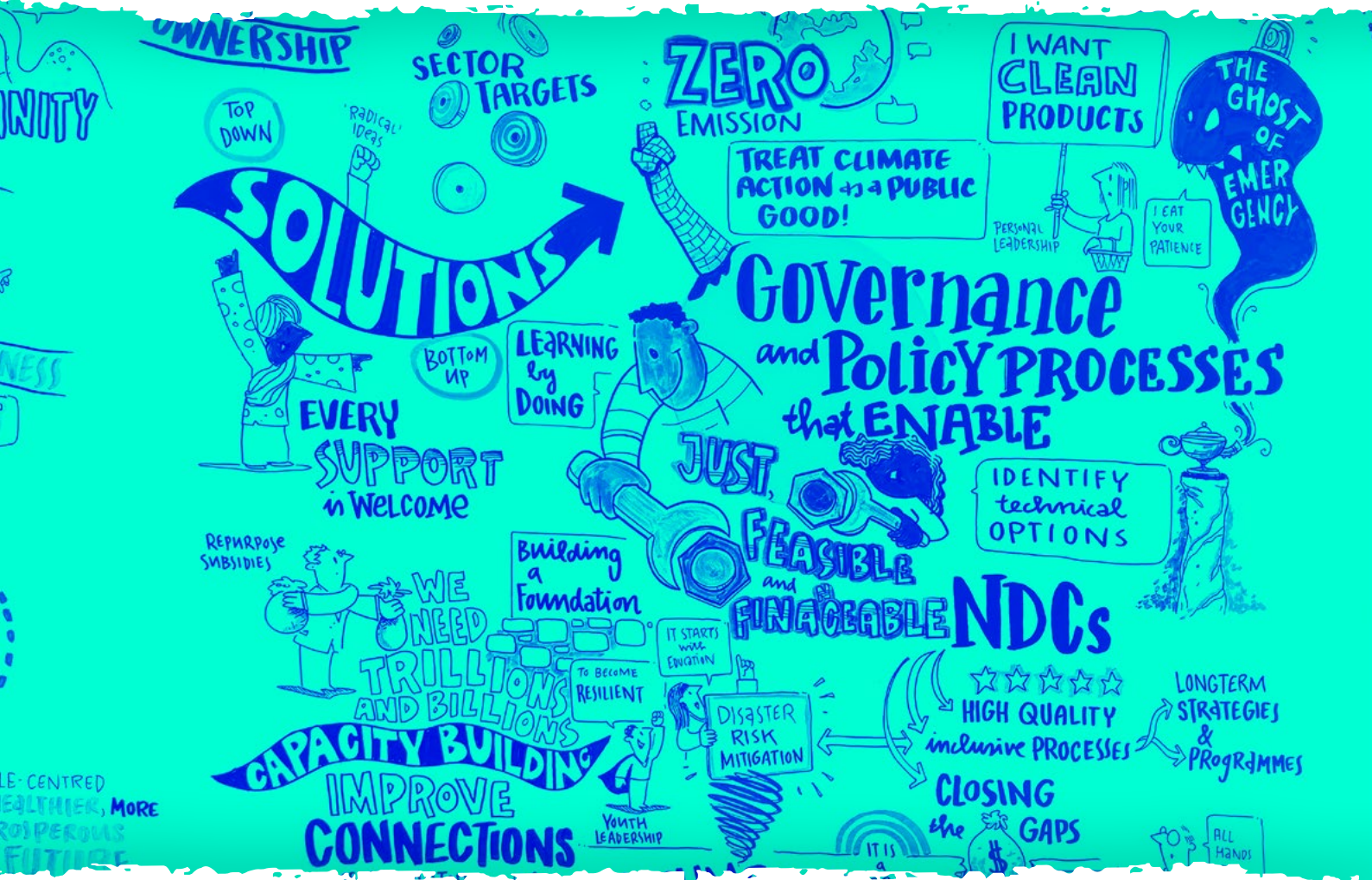




GLOBAL NDC CONFERENCE

31 MAY - 2 JUNE 2023 | BERLIN



Leading ambitious climate policy and action

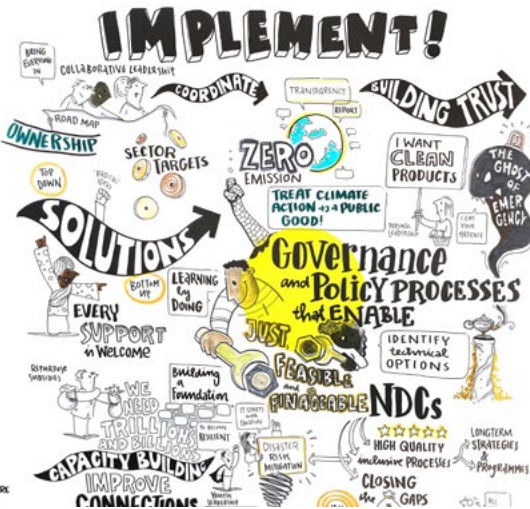
Conference Report



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Building momentum

Since 2017, the Global NDC Conference has become a much-acclaimed forum of the international climate community for sharing experiences, good practices, and innovative ideas on how to make Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) more ambitious and scaled-up. In its 2023 edition, the conference brought together nearly 350 practitioners and policymakers from over 50 countries to reaffirm commitments to global climate action. The participants were inspired to lead and contribute to processes that enable just, feasible, and financeable NDCs.

The Global NDC Conference demonstrated the power of multi-stakeholder collaboration by engaging actors with different viewpoints to co-create solutions: government officials, private sector and financial actors, researchers, civil society, and representatives from local, indigenous, and youth groups. In a collective learning experience, the participants discussed and shared their insights in aligning policies, mobilising finance, and raising ambition. They had the opportunity to strengthen their capacity and network around NDC processes in more than 25 uniquely

themed breakout sessions, organised by over 30 initiatives, networks, and organisations.

The three conference days each had a thematic focus. Day one was dedicated to **governance and policy alignment for implementation**, day two focused on **mobilising finance**, and day three emphasised **raising ambition through innovation and scale**. This document sums up the most important findings of all sessions and conversations.

For more information and all conference materials please check globalindconference.org



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Day 1 | Governance and policy alignment for implementation

The first day of the conference focused on the topic **governance and policy alignment for implementation**, bringing together experts from different countries and backgrounds to exchange knowledge and inspire action. Discussions opened with keynote speeches by Jennifer Morgan, State Secretary and Special Envoy for International Climate Action of the German Federal Foreign Office, and Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

She identified three guiding topics for the way forward: innovation, acceleration, and inclusion. Innovation as a joint effort, sharing what works well and tackling what hinders effective climate action. Acceleration as a concept which goes beyond international obligations and looks for the opportunities that lie in accelerated climate actions, for example by combining economic development with climate strategies. Inclusion as the necessity to put people in the centre of the process and support those who cannot bear the costs of transition. To ensure sustainable solutions around the world that will survive the next elections, Morgan said, it is essential to bring all relevant actors to the table—from the private sector to youth to indigenous people.



Opening remarks and keynote by Jennifer Morgan, State Secretary and Special Envoy for International Climate Action at the Federal Foreign Office. © Jan Rottler / Global NDC Conference 2023

Jennifer Morgan underlined the timeliness of the Global NDC Conference, as a space for problem-solving and innovation, with only seven more years to fulfil the promises of the Paris Agreement. While pointing out the urgency of action in the face of dramatically evolving climate impacts, she stressed that climate action has become more feasible than ever. It has also proven to bring along positive side effects such as economic opportunities, reduced costs in the health sector, enhanced water and food security, as well as peace. The decisions we make today, Morgan emphasised, will have consequences for thousands of years.

“The NDCs are working towards economic development strategies (...). However, we cannot pretend these strategies will be easy. It is key for NDCs to be built around inclusion.”

— **Jennifer Morgan**, State Secretary and Special Envoy for International Climate Action of the German Federal Foreign Office

Jochen Flasbarth recognised the Global NDC Conference as an important collaborative forum on the way to COP28. He reminded the audience that the international community is not on track for reaching the goals of the Paris Agreement. To get back on track, Flasbarth said, it is especially important to enhance the quality of NDCs and mutual inspiration within the international climate community for sharing new innovative ideas and know-how. At the same time, he stated, it is necessary to aim at a just transition and link NDCs to other national strategies like national adaptation and development plans. Flasbarth highlighted that the 100-billion-pledge given in Copenhagen needs to be met without failure while existing finance options would need to be used more purposefully.



Keynote speech by Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. © Jan Rottler / Global NDC Conference 2023

Key takeaways

- We need more efforts than ever, but climate action is also more feasible than ever and has proven to bring positive side effects. Three guiding themes to move ahead are innovation, acceleration, and inclusion.
- NDCs should make inclusion mandatory and lasting, including robust multi-stakeholder engagement. Especially those who are at the forefront of climate change impacts (such as indigenous peoples, women, and youth) must be part of the NDC process. Inclusion is also becoming more relevant for the effective alignment between NDCs and long-term strategies (LTS).
- The quality of NDCs is as important as the targets they include. A good NDC aligns national, sectoral, and local strategies at an overarching level and breaks them down into specific activities. Making them realistic and transparent, as well as fostering ownership by the different stakeholders has proven to be critical for achieving better NDCs.

Enabling just, feasible, and financeable NDCs through governance and policy processes

Delving deeper into the day's topic, a panel of six international climate experts discussed how governance and policy processes can best enable just, feasible, and financeable NDCs. The panellists shared lessons from NDC implementation and the first NDC update cycle, spoke on the roles of the different actors that drive ambitious NDCs, and looked ahead to prepare for the next round of NDC updates. The conversation started with a mood picture on the key question: Can NDCs keep pace with increasing impacts? The panellists saw reason for optimism in the number and quality of more ambitious NDCs, while the accelerating climate change impacts and finance gaps were seen as concerning drawbacks.

Pablo Vieira, Global Director of the NDC Partnership Support Unit, identified three elements that are critical for better NDCs: 1) Emphasising the quality of NDCs, making them realistic and owned by stakeholders; 2) an inclusive process involving all of government and society participation as a key success factor; and 3) closing the gap between implementation and finance. Vieira added that NDCs were once developed by environment ministries and are now gradually moving to a whole-of-government approach. He emphasised the importance of connecting NDCs to development and raised concern about the difficulty for developing countries to design inclusive NDCs.

Giving a perspective from the Global South, Alice Dalrymple, an Indigenous women's leader from the Kalinago Territory in the Commonwealth of Dominica, pointed to the extreme vulnerability of her people and country. She recited a poem, addressing the audience to think about how they can personally contribute. In her subsequent



talk, she identified disaster risk mitigation as a key theme that needs to be talked about more in terms of inclusion. According to Dalrymple, resilience needs to be invested in, especially when rebuilding after a disaster, and must be seen in context with education.

Pham Van Tan, Deputy Director General at the Department of Climate Change in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Vietnam, subsequently talked about the lessons from Vietnam's first and second NDC update processes. He pointed out three crucial factors for

success: 1) A strong political leadership which brings everyone onboard for the NDC design and implementation; 2) an inclusive and bottom-up approach including public consultation, which shows how realistic implementation is; and 3) a focus on presenting actual solutions.

Jennifer Sara, Global Director of the Climate Change Group at the World Bank Group, reminded the audience of the importance of staying focused on how to rapidly decarbo-



"We are not seeing the implementation of NDCs at the speed that it needs to happen. (...) Only through an improved implementation, countries will be able to achieve social and economic benefits, apart from the environmental ones."

— **Pablo Vieira**, Global Director, NDC Partnership Support Unit



"Tackling the climate crisis requires leadership from individuals, communities, organisations, and governments at all levels. Our leaders should engage in diplomatic efforts, support global climate agreements, and collaborate across borders to address the challenges collectively."

— **Alice Dalrymple**, Indigenous women's leader from the Kalinago Territory, Commonwealth of Dominica

nise with minimal social impacts. LTS need to be based on NDCs and sound analytics. Climate and development need to be looked at comprehensively. Sara reported on best lessons to mobilise the private sector. Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETPs) and finance platform approaches have proven to be good models. She also stressed that the public sector should not expect the private sector to just come in and invest in renewables. Instead, public sector and policy action on power grid infrastructure is needed to support private engagement. She later highlighted the relevance to re-appropriate the many bad subsidies on fossil fuels and agriculture.



The opening panel focused on governance and policy for enabling just, feasible, and financeable NDCs. © Jan Rottler / Global NDC Conference 2023



“A step towards ambition is implementation; the more we implement the more ambitious can we be.”

— **Bernd Hackmann**, Team Lead, Mitigation Division, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Norbert Gorißen, Deputy Special Envoy for Climate Action at the German Federal Foreign Office, pointed out how NDCs have become central, inclusive, and mature instruments that are increasingly aligned with national plans and policies. Even so, ambition is insufficient: If all current NDCs are implemented, the world would still be on a dangerous path to 2.4 degrees. Gorißen underlined the importance of COP28 and the Global Stocktake to make direction and keep the 1.5-degree goal within reach. A roadmap to close the gap before 2030 and sufficient finance for implementation is urgently needed.

The audience discussion on the next steps brought up the need for NDCs to put the private sector at the heart of structuring projects. The fact that many projects are structured with a public sector mindset, that usually does not correspond to the private sector, was identified as one important shortcoming for their efficiency.

Key takeaways

- NDCs have become mature, data-driven, increasingly sophisticated, and wide-ranging. However, NDCs are in danger of being outpaced by climate change impacts if key bottlenecks, such as climate finance and delayed implementation, continue to fall short.
- NDCs and their implementation processes must align with climate-compatible sustainable development plans and efforts. Many countries are gradually moving to a whole-of-government approach to policy-drafting, with the understanding that economic development and climate action must go hand in hand. NDCs need to better connect to the Sustainable

- Development Goals; better inform long-term strategies; better link to other development strategies (such as national strategies or adaptation planning); and continue to rely on sound data and analytics.
- Bottom-up approaches (such as public consultation) should be prioritised by national governments via concrete resources dedicated to inclusion efforts. This would validate how realistic the opportunities and barriers for implementation are for society and to raise awareness about NDCs and the role of local stakeholders in climate action.



Aligning policies to rapidly move forward

To exchange knowledge on governance and policy alignment, seven breakout sessions offered the opportunity to get insights and discuss the following topics:

1. Aligning NDCs and Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategies (LT-LEDS)

NDC Partnership Support Unit & Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

The session analysed case studies of aligning NDCs and LT-LEDS to gain a collective understanding of the necessary steps to make them mutually reinforce each other. Learnings from the session include the need for investing in robust multi-stakeholder engagement to ensure that there are inclusive and effective foundations for NDCs and LT-LEDS. Although relevant expertise, as well as finance and examples from country experiences on alignment exist, they often do not effectively reach the stakeholders that need to use them.

2. Alignment for ambitious adaptation action

GIZ, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) & United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The session showcased innovative approaches to scaling up adaptation ambition in relation to National Adaptation Plans (NAP). A key insight of the session was that countries need to integrate both mitigation and adaptation in their NDCs instead of following siloed approaches. While NDCs must maintain a focus on mitigation, an area of improvement is risk and resilience (investing in resilience, disaster risk mitigation, and disaster recovery remains insufficient). Horizontal planning is necessary to make integrated climate action possible because mitigation and adaptation instruments

do not usually communicate. Furthermore, people at the frontlines of socio-economic development need to get engaged more strongly in climate change action.

3. NDC update support: Preparing for 2025 and more ambitious and robust NDCs

GIZ

Participants collectively evaluated lessons from the last updating cycle and developed priorities and recommendations for effective NDC update support and implementation. The discussion showed that NDCs need to be translated into investment plans to mobilise funding. At the same time, developing countries need to be empowered and develop agency so they can design effective NDC investment plans that consider environmental, social, and economic returns along with investment risks. In addition, a good NDC aligns national, sectoral, and local strategies at an overarching level and is broken down into specific activities, underpinned by governmental instruments, either as part of the NDC or as complementary strategies. One major learning from the session is that sharing data is essential to avoid limits to innovation, unrealistic targets, and the replication of traditional models in NDCs.

4. Implementing climate change action in agriculture through an integrated water-energy-food-ecosystem nexus approach

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) & UNDP

The session focussed on enhancing cooperation across sectors and government levels for effective implementation of climate action in the water-energy-food-ecosystem nexus. It was shown that agriculture, water, energy, and biodiversity need to be thought of as a nexus to be able to create more sustainable food systems. Key takeaways from the session include the urgent need to con-

sistently address food systems in climate goals and action, as well as to mobilise finance and sectoral interests to advance the nexus-approach.

5. Integration of Just Energy Transition into the NDCs

GIZ

The session presented best practices of integrating the Just Energy Transition (JET) into NDCs, moving countries towards fair renewable energy that leaves no one behind. As major success factors for JET integration, the session highlighted the need to include diverse groups at the national and subnational levels and enhance stakeholders' engagement to create a unified vision. It was highlighted that the inclusion of student and youth organisations can accelerate the transition to renewable energies. Other important success factors for JET integration and ambition raising in NDCs include green taxonomy, rapid expansion of the renewable energy sector, and community knowledge.

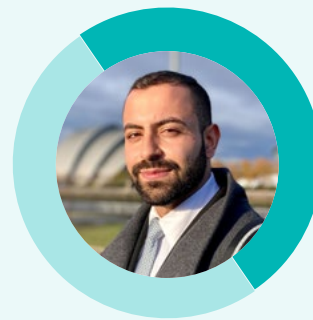
6. National benefits of climate transparency

Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement (PATPA) & UNDP

The session highlighted the connection between transparency and NDCs and explored the benefits of transparency on the national level beyond complying with the reporting requirements of the international climate agenda. It was shown that transparency can build trust in climate processes and mechanisms and help countries to access cli-



Remarks by Anja Hajduk, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action. © Jan Rottler / Global NDC Conference 2023



“NDC commitments must be scaled and enhanced to centre groups that are most affected by climate change, such as indigenous communities and youth, in every stage of the implementation process.”

— **Abdullah Khair**, Director of Global Partnerships, Student Energy

mate finance and carbon markets more easily. Other benefits of transparency include evidence-based decision-making and increased political buy-in for climate issues.

7. Human-rights-sensitive NDCs

UNDP

The session explored how to successfully integrate human rights, indigenous voices, and gender considerations into NDCs and climate action. While key human rights issues are mentioned in the preamble of the Paris Agreement, still only a few countries refer to human rights in their NDCs. Learnings of the session included that civil society engagement is key to base climate action on human rights. A gender sensitive NDC planning is needed to accommodate the fact that men and women are differently impacted and vulnerable to climate change.



Participants networking during session breaks. © Jan Rottler / Global NDC Conference 2023



“Transparency is the basis for sound data, strong frameworks, and evidence-based policy-making to implement NDC actions and mobilise finance and support.”

— **Randa Ahmed**, Program Management Officer, Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT)

Networking for implementing ambitious climate action

What turned out to be an intense and yet exciting day for learning and sharing ended with a reception at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK). State Secretary Anja Hajduk cordially welcomed the participants: “We stand ready to support partner countries to implement ambitious climate action. Use this conference to share your needs, perspectives, support mechanisms and ideas for improvement.”



Day 2 | Mobilising finance for implementation

Day two of the conference revolved around the topic **mobilising finance for implementation**. It opened with keynote speeches by Robert Habeck, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, and Günther Thallinger, Member of the Board of Management, Sustainability, and Investment Management of Allianz SE.

And 4) an open and inclusive Climate Club will serve as a cooperative forum for participating countries to jointly set parameters for green products and tackle industrial decarbonisation in a coordinated and fair way. Especially in a world fragmented by nationalism, such cooperation is increasingly needed.



Keynote speech by Robert Habeck, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action. © Jan Rottler / Global NDC Conference 2023

Günther Thallinger acknowledged the great developments of climate action but stated that it remains a challenge to bring financing and projects together. In his view, three fundamental issues persist: 1) Understanding and managing risks: The Global Emerging Market Risk Database should be available for private sector investors to help them assess risk. 2) Including expert capacity into the private and public sector—expertise needs to be developed to matchmake financial resources and projects. In this sense, specialised asset managers are needed to breach the gap with smaller financial actors. And 3) planning on a large-scale: There is a call for more large-scale planning and priority setting that would consider projections towards 2030.

Minister Habeck reminded the audience of the importance of cutting global emissions by half until 2030. He highlighted that a green transformation comes with responsibility for industrialised countries, while economic development and climate action can no longer be seen as oppositions. He identified four central levers for implementing the socio-economic transformation: 1) Policymakers must increasingly accept their responsibility to shape change and enable implementation, with a particular responsibility for rich nations; 2) strong legal and political frameworks are essential to effectively support and sustain economic endeavours; 3) public and private funds need to be redirected towards sustainable energy and investment by the state's policy framework. Public funding alone will not cover the global need for investment, which is why the BMWK increasingly contributes to mobilising private sector investments via the International Climate Initiative (IKI).



Keynote speech by Günther Thallinger, Member of the Board of Management, Sustainability and Investment Management, Allianz SE. © Jan Rottler / Global NDC Conference 2023

Key takeaways

- Closing implementation and finance gaps is just as important as raising ambition. As public funding alone will not cover the global need for investment in climate action, accelerating the effective implementation of NDCs requires mobilising private climate finance. Governments, in consequence, need to seek cooperation with the private sector, placing them at the core of climate action in the future.
- Strong political leadership is key to bringing everyone onboard for NDC design and implementation. A clear, reliable, and forward-looking political framework is a way to ensure the global, social, and ecological transformation. Policymakers worldwide must increasingly accept their responsibility to shape, change, and enable implementation, going beyond political cycles.
- Four central levers for implementing the socio-economic transformation of the economy are: (1) translating responsibility into implementation, (2) aligning policy frameworks with ambitious goals, (3) leveraging financial markets for transformation, and (4) leveraging collaborations and partnerships.
- Economic development and climate action must no longer be seen as oppositions. Matchmaking finance with projects remains a challenge. It is particularly important to understand and manage risks, to include expert capacity into the private and public sectors and to plan on a large scale.

Approaches to mobilising finance

The panel conversation focussed on approaches to mobilise funding for NDC implementation, bringing together experts from the private and public sector to share perspectives and experiences. Hubert Danso, CEO and Vice-Chairman of the Africa Investor Group, identified the urgent need to change the investment community's mindset towards think, plan, and execute. He prompted the audience to not overestimate the concessional money to fund NDCs while underestimating development partner's and multilateral development bank's support in determined contributions. According to Danso, the institutional private public framework has not yet been successful to attract finance, and there is an urgent need to fund NDCs from the private sector sphere.



Day 2 panel on approaches to mobilising finance for NDC implementation.
© Jan Rottler / Global NDC Conference 2023

Purna Soni, freelance finance expert, pointed to the enormous gap between finance needs and the existing finance (USD 850 million versus the USD 7.3 trillion needed). To overcome it, governments need to create an ecosystem of policies that attract investors, instead of trying to fund projects themselves. Jo Puri, Associate Vice-President of the Strategy and Knowledge Department of the International



"State and regional governments play a key role in implementing NDCs. There needs to be closer collaboration between national and subnational governments to ensure that NDCs increase in ambition and are deliverable on the ground."

— **Jebi Rahman**, Head of Global Implementation, Climate Group

Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), identified lacking risk profiling as an impediment to investments. Risk, financial return, and overall impact need to be considered too. According to Puri, it is difficult to translate NDCs into bankable projects for investors.

Andy Deacon, Co-Managing Director of the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM), voted for bottom-up strategies. Mayors and cities are organising to define contributions to the NDCs with the goal to raise ambition faster than national partners. Deacon called for action plans that clearly outline the impact on the local level, since cities are going

to be in the centre of action on subnational level in the next years.

The CEO of the National Business Initiative of South Africa, Shameela Soobramoney, pointed out the importance of the implementation of a just transition and of awareness of its economic opportunities. According to Soobramoney, extending inequality would equal a social “ticking time-bomb.” Investments into a stable structure for building a bankable project pipeline is needed. Although speed is important, it is necessary to allow sufficient time for learning to develop a high-quality project pipeline.

Participants had the chance to discuss about access to and integration of climate finance. © Jan Rottler / Global NDC Conference 2023

Key takeaways

- NDCs offer an investment opportunity but do not always give clarity of the finance needed to implement them. A roadmap to close the gap before 2030 and sufficient deployment of finance for implementation are urgently needed.
- The gap between currently secured funding and the amount needed is enormous. Governments should not try to fund by themselves, but rather build on stronger cooperation with the private sector. There is a need to bring in the private sector and create enabling and stable conditions for bankable projects to ensure that more finance can be mobilised for NDCs.
- There should be transparency about the risk, financial return, and overall impact of projects to attract investors. Only with the right policies, regulations and incentives, clarity about the investment risks and opportunities, as well as with initial investments and guarantees by the public sector is the private sector likely to support climate action. Good models already exist and should be replicated at scale (e.g., public-private partnerships, just energy transition partnerships, and blended finance platforms).
- There is a need to talk more about risk sharing rather than risk reduction (although still relevant). In this sense, changing the direction of the cashflow is vital if climate targets are to be met. Public and private investment could be redirected away from activities that damage the climate (e.g., fossil fuel subsidies) towards the expansion of green technologies, as well as to put in place risk-sharing facilities (collective pools of resources) among public and private financial systems and actors (i.e., national development banks, regions, municipalities, insurance sector, etc.).
- Local governments must be at the heart of the acceleration of climate action and building resilience, as the impacts of climate change are mostly visible in inhabited places, where infrastructure and services exist.



Day 2 breakout sessions addressed the challenges and opportunities of international climate finance. © Jan Rottler / Global NDC Conference 2023

Knowledge exchange on mobilising finance

To exchange knowledge on **mobilising finance**, seven breakout sessions offered the opportunity to get insights and discuss pressing topics:

1. NDC investment planning NDC Partnership

In this session countries learned about requirements for improved access to NDC-aligned resources, while financiers deepened their understanding of country challenges. The organisers presented steps to bridge the finance gaps through NDC investment planning and NDC Partnership support. It was stressed that the preparation of project funding proposals needs to move from an incremental approach with many singular, often sectoral proposals, to sets of investment opportunities that are aligned and build on each other. Other key takeaways of the session are that investors need to co-develop proposals to speed up processes and the role of government must change from project developer to project approver, thereby reforming the existing project preparation model.

2. Pipeline development and prioritisation UNDP

The session showcased measures on how to accelerate the implementation of adaptation action and prioritise and build financing plans for climate action to allow for climate conscious development pathways. The Global Climate Action Partnership (GCAP) shared its support activities. Learnings from the session include the need to quantify adaptation benefits to scale up investment in adaptation projects, which can lead to a mentality shift towards prioritising adaptation with mitigation co-benefits. At the same time, adaptation projects must be made attractive to private sector investors by risk assessment and microeconomic analysis, involving them from early project development stages.

3. Showcasing carbon market projects to display their role in raising NDC ambitions GIZ

Projects in the global carbon markets play a crucial role in mobilising financial tools and set ambitious goals to increase carbon-saving projects. The session discussed country success stories and the importance of capacity building and inclusion. Car-

bon markets were identified as an important lever to channel resources and raise ambition in NDCs by helping countries achieve their conditional targets and tap into “high hanging fruits” that would otherwise not be funded. Learnings from the session included that knowledge dissemination and sharing best practices between countries, but also on communal and other stakeholder levels is urgently needed in this highly technical field.

4. Integrated approaches on domestic climate finance

NDC Partnership

Participants learned about integrated financing approaches and respective instruments to put a green financial transformation into practice. Experiences on integrating domestic climate finance were shared and public and private engagement strategies were developed. Frameworks from the development sector, such as Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs), can be helpful in integrating domestic finance. Pooling strategies and instruments, as well as engaging all stakeholders can unlock domestic and international finances.

5. Building national capacity to access international finance

The Commonwealth Secretariat

Strengthening capacity within countries is critical for improving access to international climate finance, especially for developing countries. In this session capacity building initiatives, best practice strategies, and country case studies were analysed. It was highlighted that one of the most important considerations is the question: whose capacity are we building? All actors need to be involved to build the workforce of the future and retain capacity building in the country. This includes actors from national and sub-national governments, universities, research institutes, the private sector, and the youth. It is important to learn from country experiences, facilitators and organisations, as well as to make use of networks to access knowledge.

6. Understanding financing needs for urban climate action

Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (CCFLA) & ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

In this session participants looked at how national governments can scale finance for urgently needed urban climate action. The urban context is



“Ensuring effective implementation of NDCs is a complex task, but one of the biggest challenges lies in balancing ambition with practicality. It is crucial to strike a delicate equilibrium between setting ambitious climate targets and ensuring their feasibility and attainability.”

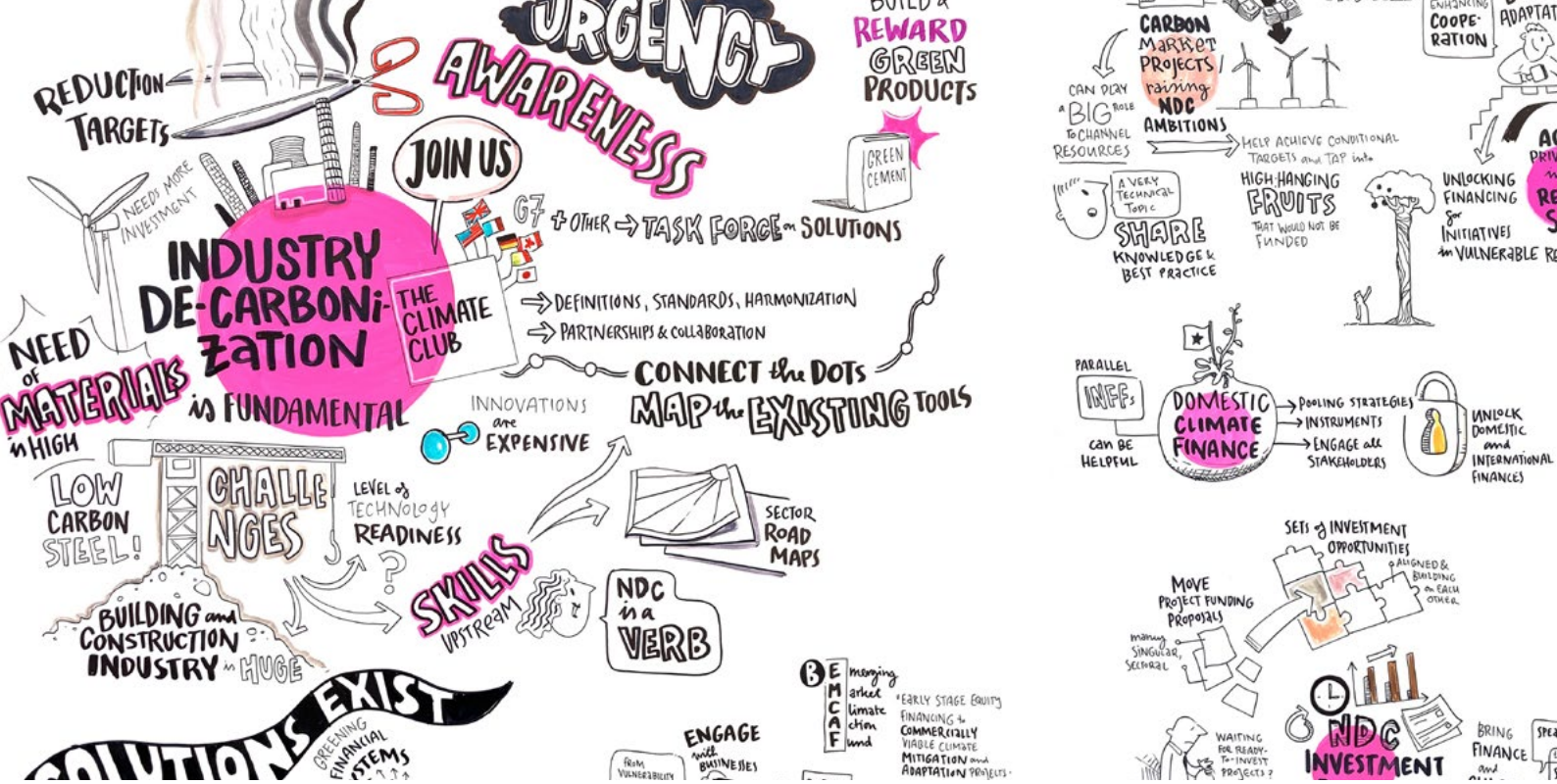
— **Jahan Chowdhury**, Global Lead for Environment and Climate, IFAD

generally missing or underexploited in NDCs, although more than 50 percent of the world’s population lives in urban areas. Possible solutions were discussed with a focus on how to scale urban adaptation finance and increase vertical integration. It was stressed that climate budgeting on all levels of governance is important, and cities need to be actively enabled to contribute to the realisation of the Paris Agreement.

7. Amplifying adaptation: Accelerating private sector investment in climate-resilient solutions

IFAD

The session showcased successful public-private partnerships with international financial institutions (IFI) and disclosed ways to collaboratively bridge the adaptation finance gap. Stakeholders were presented with possibilities to identify opportunities for enhancing cooperation, improving investment design, and unlocking private sector financing for climate adaptation initiatives in vulnerable regions. A key takeaway from the session is that the difficult marriage between the public and the private sector needs to be ensured in the updated NDCs.



Industry decarbonisation and the Climate Club

The session discussed the opportunities and challenges of industry decarbonisation and provided background on the international Climate Club. The open and inclusive Climate Club is being established to support the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement by accelerating climate action and increasing ambition. It puts a particular focus on the industry sector. Rana Ghoneim, Chief - Energy systems and Infrastructure Division at United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), pointed to the fact that many technologies for decarbonisation are promising but not ready yet. She stressed that the private sector has a significant role to change that. Ghoneim talked about the importance of the Climate Club for adapting vocational systems to provide training to the youth and build awareness across industries. Additionally, she pointed to its relevance for building systems for Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) and tracking the industry through sectoral roadmaps.

Vera Rodenhoff, Deputy Director General of International Climate Protection and International Energy Transition at BMWK, highlighted the fact that there are many mitigation approaches out there that are all different. The Climate Club, she stressed, aims at addressing industry decarbonisation through developing standards and measurements, collecting best practices, building partnerships, and cooperation. It enables mutual support for ambitious mitigation approaches, measuring, and fulfilling these ambitions. It has three main pillars: 1) Advancing ambitious and transparent climate mitigation policies to reduce emission intensities of participating economies on the pathway to-

wards climate neutrality; 2) transforming industries jointly to accelerate decarbonisation; 3) boosting international ambition through partnerships and cooperation to encourage and facilitate climate action, unlock socio-economic benefits of climate cooperation, and promote just energy transition. The Climate Club can elevate concerns and solutions at a high level, combined with bottom-up support on a working level.

Francisco Ulloa, First Secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of Chile in Germany, pointed out how the Climate Club enables the global south to work together on urgent issues. Chile joined the Climate Club in the beginning of 2023 and took over the vice-presidency. Ulloa drew attention to the fact that the Climate Club task force is developing a working plan until the end of 2023 for setting up a high-level platform to share and matchmake tools with industries.



Figure: Panel on industry decarbonisation and the Climate Club. © Jan Rottler / Global NDC Conference 2023

Key takeaways

- The industry sector makes up a considerable proportion of the emissions globally, therefore, cooperation with this sector needs to advance fast to be able to get back on track to limit global warming.
- The Climate Club brings together a wider subset of countries to address the decarbonisation of the industry by setting standards and measurements, sharing best practices, and creating partnerships and cooperation to support each other. It is still in its construction phase and includes Global South countries from the beginning on.



Climate finance transparency is vital to keep mobilising resources. © Jan Rottler / Global NDC Conference 2023

Peer-learning to enhance climate action

The **Challenge buster** format offered the opportunity to engage in an intensive peer-to-peer learning and advisory process on climate action. Participants had the opportunity to share a challenge they are facing in their work and reflect in small groups about solutions and innovative ideas, as well as concrete next steps to take. Several key challenges were discussed within the format. For example,

the question of how to deal with investments in natural gas infrastructure that can back power generation from intermittent renewable energy sources but also entail the risk of new dependencies on fossil fuels. Other participants were curious about finding good ways to engage stakeholders on all levels for effectively implementing NDCs, as well as possibilities to increase capacity building and access to climate finance in a timely manner. Translating just transition into implementation, and effectively collaborating with local governments regardless of party affiliation, were further challenges to be busted.



Challenge busters were spaces to find solutions, together. © Jan Rottler / Global NDC Conference 2023



Participants networking during session breaks. © Jan Rottler / Global NDC Conference 2023

Deep diving into climate initiatives

Representatives of six relevant climate initiatives offered deep insights into their ways of fostering and financing climate actions: **V20 Climate Prosperity Plans (CPP)**, the **GAIA Blended Finance Platform** by the Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG), the **Greening central banks Initiative** by NDC Partnership, the **Climate finance tracking methodology** developed by the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) and the Center for Clean Air Policy (CCAP), the **City Climate Finance Gap Fund**, and the **Allianz Climate Solutions Emerging Markets Debt Fund** by Allianz. Participants had the opportunity for intensive engagement with these initiatives and explore possibilities to finance climate actions.



Participants networking during session breaks. © Jan Rottler / Global NDC Conference 2023



Day 3 | Raising ambition through innovation and scale

The last day of the conference focused on **raising ambition through innovation and scale**. It started with a concise introduction of the Mitigation Action Facility (MAF), a grant-based multi-donor fund for sectoral decarbonisation and transformation through more ambitious NDCs and LT-LEDS. The MAF, which evolved out of the NAMA Facility, provides technical assistance and climate finance for ambitious and replicable mitigation projects in three priority sectors: energy, mobility, and industry. MAF's Call for projects 2023 was announced at the Global NDC Conference, with a funding volume of up to EUR 100 million, seeking to support transformative climate projects in developing countries and emerging economies.

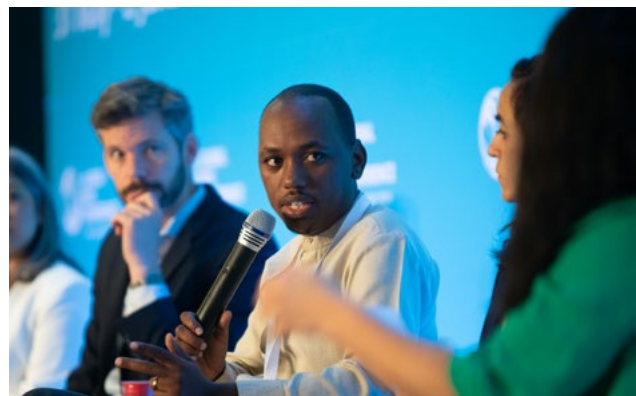
Key takeaways

- There is demand for combining technical and financial assistance as means to implement complex and ambitious climate projects.
- Transformational vehicles (such as the MAF) are crucial to accelerate NDC implementation in key mitigation sectors. Focus must be laid on quick responses that would unlock investments in technologies, leading to a reduction of greenhouse gases.
- Cooperation with philanthropies needs to be enhanced. They can help create the enabling environment that is beyond the scope of what the private sector and government can fund. MAF brings two important ingredients for philanthropies: impact and scale.



"How to bring the technical assistance and financial assistance together is the question that always comes up (...). Not all projects can succeed in this integration, but it is definitely worth trying."

— **Philipp Behrens**, Head of Division International Climate Initiative (BMWK)



Session introducing the Mitigation Action Facility and its call for projects 2023. © Jan Rottler / Global NDC Conference 2023

Innovative examples of climate actions for scaling up

Scaling up and replication was at the centre of the **Fish-bowl** conversation on the last day of the conference. Experts from the public and private sector discussed innovative examples of climate actions strengthening NDC implementation and ambition raising that could potentially be scaled up and replicated in different contexts.

Sandrine Kamikazi, Technical Advisor at the Rwanda Green Fund (FONERWA), presented **FONERWA as an innovative example that invests in green projects**. She explained how the fund now focusses on LT-LEDS to catalyse funding across sectors, and counts on blended funding, incubators, and accelerators for innovative projects. Deger Saygin, Industry Programme Lead at OECD Clean Energy Finance and Investment Mobilisation (CEFIM), stressed the **importance of long-term predictable markets, regulatory frameworks and an environment of innovative business models** for the development of bankable projects. He pointed out that innovative finance instruments, such as blended finance, as well as capacity development, are crucial to create an enabling environment.

Christopher Marks, Managing Director and Head of Emerging Markets at MUFG underlined the **importance of bringing investors into settings they would normally not operate in**. He indicated that traditional investments



"NDCs are one of the strongest tools we have at our disposal to advance sustainable development in the years and decades ahead. From energy and nature to agriculture and transport, NDCs offer unique, sovereign blueprints for investment in areas that can push climate ambition and action."

— **Cassie Flynn**, Director, Climate Hub, UNDP



"Delivering the Paris Agreement requires urgent action, yet insights into effective policy making are hidden within mountains of documents. Arming researchers and decision-makers with a comprehensive evidence base is crucial to halve emissions this decade."

— **Sarah Goodenough**, Head of Policy, Climate Policy Radar

are not reaching countries that require it the most. Moreover, he identified that there is a need for a better matrix for vulnerability. Sara Cognuck-González, Consultant for climate and environmental action, emphasised that the preparation and integration of young people can have a large impact on the process of climate policies. She presented good practices of youth inclusion in Costa Rica and the need to develop inclusive methodologies.

Key takeaways

- Systemic innovations, not just technical ones, are needed in business, finance, and governance models to enter new markets.
- Diversity, transparency, and consistency in financial products strengthen their ability to scale and have impact.
- The innovations must be inclusive. This means that different actors need to be included into the processes and enabling conditions are created to provide vulnerable communities with access to climate funding.



Participants discussed ways to transform sectors and align local and national plans. © Jan Rottler / Global NDC Conference 2023

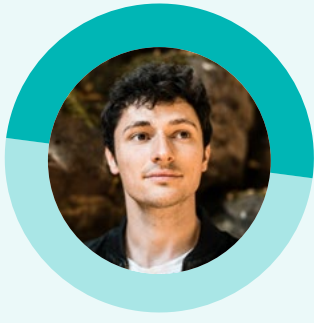
Methods and innovations for raising ambition

At the conference's **Innovation hub**, close to 30 initiatives and projects provided insights and discussions on seven overarching themes presenting a valuable source of inspiration for participants to **raise ambition through innovation and scale**:

1. Three **Accelerator labs** presented their approaches: The **Lab of Tomorrow** explores how to incentivise companies to adopt sustainable business models and activate the innovation potential of the private sector to promote NDC implementation. The **CATAL1.5°T Initiative** supports green and local businesses and provides funds, knowledge and tools for Latin American and West African climate-tech communities connecting them to local policy and creating access points at the international policy level. The **Climate Finance Accelerator**, a British bilateral program with a bottom-up approach, brings together project developers, finance providers, and policymakers. It helps identify challenges that prevent finance from flowing at the volume and speed needed for meaningful impact in middle-income countries.
2. Capacity building was discussed by four initiatives: The **Tunisian Youth Climate Change Negotiator Group** gave a notable input on how to involve youth in climate decision-making processes through education and youth training. The **Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Ac-**

tion shared how they are building the capacity of finance ministers to enable critical engagement in national climate agendas. The **Global Climate Action Partnership** took the opportunity to share a new portfolio of multi-sectoral and cross-cutting activities for technical support and peer learning. The project **Transforming the Honduran livestock sector** by MAF presented an approach to improve traditional livestock practices with negative environmental impacts through the diffusion of low-carbon techniques.

3. Five initiatives gave insight into innovations regarding digitalisation and data: WRI's Climate Watch showcased its **One-Stop Data Shop** for countries. Five initiatives gave insight into innovations regarding digitalisation and data: WRI's Climate Watch showcased its One-Stop Data Shop for countries on NDCs, LTS, and Net-Zero Targets. It collects indicators and makes them comparable for governments, development partners and researchers alike. The **Ocean Action Tracker** was developed at the Global Stocktake Climate Datathon by a global team of youth climate activists and data scientists. It can be used to leverage science and data to develop ocean related NDCs as well as inform the Global Stocktake. The Climate Policy Radar showcased its Global Stocktake Explorer using augmented reality to support the Global Stocktake uptake. **STAARS project** by the Climate Group uses satellite and other remote sensing data combined with artificial intelligence (AI) to support countries, states, and cities to achieve NDC targets through timely and granular greenhouse gas emissions data. **Open Planetary AI** by Ærth offers collabora-



“Private sector actors bring immense resources and innovation capabilities to the table. We can leverage this potential for the NDCs by providing incentives for sustainable business development. Sometimes, gathering bright minds in a room is all it takes for the initial spark!”

— **David Brand**, Advisor at the Lab of Tomorrow, GIZ

tive learning models that can support the efficient update and implementation of NDC’s, especially in the global south through open-source decentralised data.

4. Innovations in the energy field were presented by four initiatives: **Student Energy** explored the significant role of young people in the energy transition. It showed up ways to raise the ambition on the inclusion of youth leadership in NDC action and to promote inclusive climate finance. The Society for Renewable Energy presented a **case study on reimagining a greener future** through the penta-helix model for **collaboration with the Indonesian youth**. The Government of Jordan showcased its **Cool Up Programme** that promotes sustainable cooling in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey. The Mitigation Action Facility focussed on **engaging with private sector and subnational governments for energy sustainability** in Mexico.
5. Finance innovations were brought forward by five initiatives. **Rwanda’s Green Fund FONERWA** showcased the advantages of programmatic approaches to climate finance, versus project-by-project approaches. The newly developed **Global Youth Climate Action Fund (GYCAF)** by Better Living Initiatives shared how it makes climate finance more accessible to the youth. The Mitigation Action Facility explored how a combination of technical assistance and financial instruments can unlock **Energy efficiency investments at scale**

for industrial decarbonisation with a focus on small and medium-sized enterprises in Brazil. The Climate Finance Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GFLAC) explained how it promotes robust accountability standards of international climate finance by pushing for budget transparency of national resources allocated to addressing climate change. It has developed a **Sustainable Finance Index**, which has been applied in 20 LAC countries. IFAD discussed how assigning monetary value to resilience benefits and creating a new asset class can incentivise investments in adaptation efforts and foster collaboration between public and private sectors. IFAD’s **Resilience Credits** will be launched at COP28 and will function as tradable units that can be exchanged in market-like space to incentivise resilience enhancements.

6. Three innovations on stakeholder engagement & inclusion were presented: Antigua and Barbuda showcased their **Sustainable Island Resource Framework (SIRF) Fund**. The SIRF is an innovative financing facility which is specially designed for vulnerable people to help financing adaptation measures. The Kenyan Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry highlighted how Kenya **incorporated youth** into the development of the National Climate Change Action Plan 2023-2027. The Directorate of Gender Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda showcased its **Wi REDI projects** promoting gender-responsive climate change and disaster risk management.
7. Innovative multi-level climate action was discussed by three initiatives: the Global Covenant of Majors showcased its **Multilevel Climate Action Playbook** and called for a NDC Multilevel Pact to put more ambitions into NDCs and increase the relevance of NDCs on city-level. USAID highlighted the power of foreign **assistance to catalyse and support ambitious climate action**. Its representatives provided rich examples of supporting global and subnational NDC implementation for enabling countries to achieve conditional climate commitments and further scale ambition. **Success factors for sectoral NDC implementation** were highlighted by the International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT) and GIZ. A focus was laid on decarbonisation opportunities in transport, including the latest developments in electric mobility and the role of innovation in accelerating the transition to a low-carbon transport system.



The Global NDC Conference 2023 came to an end after 3 successful days. © Jan Rottler / Global NDC Conference 2023

Closing session: A solid basis for optimism

After three fully packed days, participants were left with the feeling that knowledge exchange is an effective way forward to intensify national NDC processes and reach the climate goals of the international community. The broad variety of contributions during all the different formats of the conference left participants motivated and empowered to act as multipliers and make a difference in their own capacities and in their country context.

In the closing remarks, Phillipp Behrens, Head of Division of the International Climate Initiative, German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action gave an optimistic outlook on the success of the conference. “We managed to bring together people from the different sectors and silos, that a couple of years ago would not have been speaking to each other,” he said. Bringing together all those actors, who had something important to say and shared their perspectives, made it clear that we can still turn the rudder around and make a difference.

Impressions from participants

Participants of the Global NDC Conference 2023 had the chance to share their views on NDC ambition, multi-stakeholder support, and viable solutions to challenges. Check out what they had to say:

For more information and all conference materials please visit globalndcconference.org



What can countries and the society do to enhance NDC ambition?



How can different stakeholders support better NDC implementation?



What are the biggest challenges in the NDC process?



Wie können wir NDCs umsetzen und ambitioniert weiterentwickeln?

Partners

The Global NDC Conference 2023 was hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK), and co-organised with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, the NDC Partnership, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), under the International Climate Initiative (IKI).

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Organisers



Contributors

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



Annex: Agenda 2023

Day 1

31 MAY 2023
Governance and policy alignment

9:00	Official welcome and opening
10:30	Break
11:00	Panel conversation
12:30	Lunch
14:00	Breakout sessions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aligning NDCs and Long-term Low Emissions Development Strategies 2. Alignment for ambitious adaptation action 3. NDC Update Support: Preparing for 2025 and more ambitious and robust NDCs 4. Implementing climate change action in agriculture through an integrated water-energy-food nexus approach 5. Integration of Just Energy Transition into the NDCs 6. National benefits of climate transparency 7. Human-rights-sensitive NDCs
16:00	Break
16:30	Plenary: Coming back together
17:00	Close
18:00	Reception at BMWK

Day 2

1 JUNE 2023
Mobilising finance

9:00	Welcome back to Day 2
9:05	Keynote addresses
9:30	Panel conversation
10:30	Group photo and break
11:15	Breakout sessions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NDC investment planning 2. Pipeline development and prioritisation 3. Showcasing carbon market projects to display their role in raising NDC ambitions 4. Integrated approaches on domestic climate finance 5. Building national capacity to access international finance 6. Understanding financing needs for urban climate action 7. Amplifying adaptation: Accelerating private sector investment in climate-resilient solutions
13:15	Lunch
14:30	Industry decarbonisation and the Climate Club
15:15	Challenge buster & deep dives into initiatives
16:30	Break
17:00	Plenary: Coming back together
17:30	Close
18:00	Dinner cruise with conversations on NDC implementation

Day 3

2 JUNE 2023
Raising ambition through innovation and scale

9:00	Welcome back to Day 3
9:15	Introduction to the Mitigation Action Facility & Call launch
10:00	Fishbowl on ways to scale
11:00	Break
11:30	Innovation Hubs <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accelerator Labs 2. Capacity Building 3. Digitalisation & data 4. Energy 5. Finance 6. Stakeholder engagement & inclusion 7. Multi-level climate action
12:30	Plenary: Coming back
12:45	Closing and action planning
13:30	Lunch
14:30	Networking and bilateral meetings
17:00	End of conference

Imprint

The information expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect the official position of the Global NDC Conference 2023 organisers and partners. Rather, the document highlights key messages coming from a vibrant network of climate experts and practitioners.

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