

## KNOWLEDGE & LEARNING STRATEGY (2018-2020)

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## Knowledge & Learning Strategy (2018-2020)

### I. Introduction

The success of the Paris Agreement relies on countries' ability to quickly meet their NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution) targets and to enhance NDC ambition over time. To avoid and mitigate adverse climate impacts, urgent action is needed to support countries with resources and guidance delivered in a readily-accessible, synthesized, and timely manner for rapid, efficient and cost-effective NDC implementation and enhancement.

The NDC Partnership, launched at COP 22 in November 2016, exists to spur more effective and ambitious global climate action, and ultimately achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement. The Partnership also works to better integrate the climate and development agendas so that these initiatives are mutually reinforcing. For the Partnership to materially impact progress towards Paris Agreement mitigation and adaptation goals, it must drive accelerated implementation and enhanced ambition across *all* countries in the Partnership and beyond. Knowledge and learning is a principal means through which the Partnership can do this both in countries supported through the Country Engagement Strategy<sup>1</sup> (CEs countries) and those not receiving this direct support. It can do this by enabling countries to find technical solutions, encouraging learning between countries and members, and working with countries to develop and contextualize a means for attaining or exceeding NDCs.

### II. How the NDC Partnership adds unique value to knowledge and learning

There is an engaged and committed international community of institutions, countries, and organizations working to produce, share, and use knowledge resources for NDC implementation. However,

#### a. Many countries still face one or more of three major challenges

- 1. Finding the right knowledge resources:** There is a wide range of data sources, tools and advisory services to support countries in implementing their NDCs. But for many countries finding the most appropriate resources befitting country contexts and using them effectively is not an easy task. Equally, those creating climate data, tools, and other resources do not necessarily have a complete understanding of how and if they are being used. Moreover, without a broad overview of climate knowledge and learning, organizations developing knowledge resources may duplicate efforts, be unable to identify key knowledge gaps and miss opportunities for collaboration.
- 2. A Need for Candid Dialogue:** Many countries are struggling with similar challenges in NDC implementation and are interested in learning directly from each other. They need safe,

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<sup>1</sup> The NDC Partnership Support Unit provides direct support to countries that have formally requested assistance in NDC implementation. This assistance is provided through its Country Engagement Strategy (CES) process.

supportive venues in which they can share experiences, learn from mistakes, and replicate solutions.

- 3. Insufficient Political Will and/or Vision for NDC Implementation:** The Paris Agreement sets lofty targets, and many countries have yet to see clear pathways for implementing their NDCs. The international community also wants to see evidence that the NDCs represent a substantial deviation from business-as-usual, and that their progressive enhancement can lead to transformative change. There is a need for committed countries to show progress that will inspire action at the political level, as well as to disseminate technical solutions that countries can adopt to meet ambitious goals.

b. [The NDC Partnership is uniquely positioned to meet these challenges](#)

- 1. The NDC Partnership’s member countries and institutions include both those seeking to use knowledge resources, particularly key policymakers, and those with expertise and experience to share:** The NDC Partnership’s member countries and institutions bring together a wide range of knowledge and experiences, enabling unique opportunities to learn from each other. Drawing together the major knowledge resources available, the NDC Partnership can amplify their reach, increasing their accessibility and use. Moreover, through engagement with member countries, the NDC Partnership can help understand whether and how such resources are being used and identify where critical gaps in knowledge exist. Drawing together the foremost climate research institutions, the NDC Partnership can promote collaborative efforts to fill these knowledge gaps and to build up the knowledge base needed to support NDC implementation.
- 2. The NDC Partnership builds trust among countries and has insight into their needs:** By bringing together countries and institutions committed to accelerated NDC implementation and enhanced ambition, the NDC Partnership fosters an environment of trust that enables candid, in-depth sharing of experiences. Through its in-country work and routine member engagement, the Partnership can gather and share impartial insights, relevant country experiences, and knowledge resources. The NDC Partnership’s nimble Support Unit and engaged partners enable it to respond with speed and flexibility to country needs.
- 3. The NDC Partnership possesses both on-the-ground insights and political leverage:** Through its in-country work and member engagement, the Partnership has unique insights into country experiences of challenges and successes. Its wide range of committed country and institutional members also give it prominence and credibility in influencing the climate agenda at the highest levels. Together, these advantages make the Partnership a persuasive voice to advance climate ambition.

c. [Strategic Goal for Knowledge and Learning](#)

Thus, the Partnership’s overall strategic goal for knowledge and learning is to **accelerate NDC implementation and enhance climate ambition and political will over time among Partnership members and beyond, by enabling member countries to access relevant knowledge resources, sharing country experiences and institutional expertise, and carrying out compelling outreach initiatives.**

### III. Knowledge and Learning Activities

The Partnership will implement its strategic goal through a cyclical process of **learning, reflecting** and **sharing** information and country experiences on NDC implementation.

#### a. Learn

**The Partnership gains insight from two main sources: directly from countries, and via engagement with its institutional, associate members and other expert institutions.**

- Insight from countries is gained through the CES, regular communication with all members, and through active outreach to members requesting knowledge support.
- Learning from institutional members is driven by regular “check-ins” via email, phone conference and in person. Associate members and other expert institutions will actively engage through workshops and online outreach.

**Learning activities are a two-way process.** As the Support Unit consults with Partnership members, it will share relevant country lessons, provide updates on new NDC implementation tools, and share insights into country needs, as appropriate.

The Support Unit’s learning activities will include:

- Regular check- in calls/communications** with members, covering a range of learning topics, in addition to those related to membership and governance. The Support Unit will provide each member with updates on NDC Partnership developments, relevant learning, tools and training opportunities. It will solicit member insights on challenges, best practices, lessons learned, and learning/capacity needs.
- Country missions and capacity building.** Where a member country is engaged in the NDC Partnership’s Country Engagement Strategy (CES), the SU will ensure that appropriate staff and/or partners accompany in-country missions to conduct training and share lessons learned as appropriate. For CES countries, knowledge gaps and needs assessed through the Rapid Situation Assessment will guide knowledge services provided. In cases where a member is not engaged in the CES but has requested knowledge support or offers particularly instructive lessons, the Support Unit may carry out in-country visits and develop case studies, country profiles or similar products to ensure that relevant lessons are shared across the Partnership.
- NDC Partnership Forum and other convening.** The Partnership Forum brings together all partners [twice] per year to take stock of progress and to identify major learning needs. The Forum will, among other aims, elicit countries’ learning needs; gather information on new knowledge resources and capacity building resources from members; prompt members to present their experiences and lessons learned; and explore potential case studies and country experiences to profile. The Partnership will also leverage other convening opportunities such as side events, regional convening by members, and support for ad-hoc exchanges on country demand. The Support Unit will also work with members to pilot online convening models.

- iv. **Mapping of existing knowledge resources and providers.** The Support Unit will compile a global review of the major international climate initiatives, knowledge resources, and success stories in NDC implementation. This mapping exercise will ensure that members can be guided towards existing capacity building resources and expertise of institutional members and others, so that longer-term support may be provided to strengthen national climate capacities.

b. Reflect

The Partnership supports members in finding the most appropriate knowledge resources for their needs and in turning its many experiences into sharable insights. To this end, **the Support Unit will implement a knowledge management system to curate and catalog insights gained from the Partnership.** Information in the knowledge management system will come directly from interactions (during the “learn” phase) from the countries and institutions in the Partnership. The main functions of the knowledge management system are: to enable an overview analysis of knowledge resources, gaps and potential areas for research/knowledge collaboration; to bring relevant knowledge gaps, country needs and lessons learned to the attention of the Partnership; and to allow the Support Unit to provide targeted responses to country learning requests, matching needs with available resources and expertise. As with the learning phase, **this activity will be a collaborative process between the Support Unit and the members of the Partnership.**

The knowledge management system will capture and curate:

- a) Assessments of country learning needs
- b) NDC implementation successes, lessons learned and insights
- c) A directory of NDC implementation expertise and capacity building resources.

In addition to responding to lessons and needs raised by members, the Partnership Support Unit will actively work to **build a more detailed shared knowledge base in several Focus Areas.** These are issues of special relevance to the Partnership's members and on which the Partnership is well placed to provide insight that complements existing knowledge. The purpose of setting Focus Areas is to prevent the Support Unit from spreading itself too thin and to maximize its effort on issues central to its work and where the Partnership offers clear added value.

For each of these focus areas, the Support Unit will carry out the following:

1. Commission a scoping report from an external expert to inform the Partnership's work, covering:
  - a) Review of literature and key issues for the Partnership's consideration
  - b) Mapping of major actors on the topic
  - c) Identification of existing success stories or useful modalities for the Partnership to consider
2. Include the focus area as part of the Support Unit's routine outreach to Members.
3. Organize sessions on the focus area for major NDC Partnership convening, including Forums
4. Prepare an “Insights from the Partnership” brief synthesizing major lessons learned from the Partnership's work on the Focus Area topic during the year.

Each year the Support Unit will propose a set of Focus Areas for that year, which may be new or continuations of existing topics, for discussion.

**The four proposed Focus Areas in 2018 are:**

**Understanding the use of knowledge resources.** While there is a very large body of tools, guides, data sources and other knowledge resources, comparatively little is known about how, or even whether, many of these resources are used by countries to advance their NDC implementation. Although organizations sometimes assess the use of particular products, there is a need for a more comprehensive understanding of when and how governments actually use particular types of resources and what can be done to make these more accessible, usable and effective. The NDC Partnership is uniquely well placed to understand this question through engagement with its members, and the lessons learned will help the Partnership refine its own knowledge and learning activities.

**Mainstreaming NDC implementation into budgetary and planning processes.** For many of the Partnership’s members, the first imperative in NDC implementation is integrating NDC actions into development planning and spending priorities. The Partnership’s country engagement is already yielding important insights into the range of approaches countries are taking to this process.

**Financing NDC implementation.** See Finance Strategy (under development). This Focus Area ensures that the Partnership’s knowledge and learning support the Partnership’s work on facilitating access to finance.

**Gender equity.** NDC implementation impacts and actions are linked in a variety of ways to gender equity. As a cross-cutting sustainable development goal (SDG), gender parity is an important focus to further integrate the NDC and SDG agendas to support greater and more lasting development and climate impact. The NDC Partnership Principles have specifically identified gender as a priority issue, and it is a topic on which the Partnership can offer insight and leadership.

c. Share

**The Support Unit will facilitate access to relevant knowledge resources within the Partnership, or outside it, based on country requests.** If a relevant Thematic Working Group (TWG) exists, requests will be conveyed accordingly. Where appropriate, the Support Unit may provide direct assistance in sharing insights or facilitating partnership convening, particularly when a learning request is related to a Partnership Focus area (see “Reflect”).

**The Partnership will share lessons learned with member countries and the global community via outreach initiatives that support dialogue and easy access to NDC implementation information.** This will help spark adoption and rapid replication of successful policies and practices. Lessons learned will also feed into the work of other Partnership services, including country engagement, financing, communications, and partnerships.

**The Partnership shares knowledge through three main avenues:**

1. Increasing **Access** to Knowledge Resources and capacity building
2. Fostering country-country **dialogue** and exchange
3. **Outreach** to the Partnership’s membership and the global community

i. Access

**The Partnership’s knowledge portal and associated capacity building activities aim to empower all countries** to accelerate climate action and take on more ambitious goals by ensuring that they have easy, quick access to:

- relevant climate data
- sources of climate finance
- essential tools, technology platforms, help desks and other technical resources
- highlights of members’ experiences
- links to knowledge resources and platforms developed by members
- training and capacity building

To achieve these aims, the Support Unit will:

- Redesign knowledge portal and tools to facilitate intuitive, user-friendly navigation:** The Support Unit will improve knowledge portal design, content and navigation so that it is intuitive and easy-to-use for NDC implementing countries. The Support Unit will also develop an online tutorial, organize webinars as needed for knowledge portal users, and continually solicit feedback from members on how to make the portal relevant and effective. This will serve to support action in members and non-members alike.
- Ensure relevant, up-to-date content that meets country learning needs:** Based on country learning needs determined through the “learn” and “reflect” phases, portal content will be designed to respond to these needs. In addition, newly identified knowledge resources and tools from Partnership members will be integrated into the knowledge portal or linked as appropriate. The Support Unit will ensure that the portal’s underlying data sets are kept fully up-to-date and that its features are relevant and useful to members.
- Profile knowledge products and services from Partnership members:** The NDC Partnership brings together a wide range of actors that offer important knowledge products and services in support of NDC implementation. The Knowledge Portal will systematically lead users to appropriate resources, as well as periodically profile members’ new or updated tools.
- Conduct training and capacity building activities:** These will include webinars on how to use NDC Partnership knowledge resources, briefings for SU teams prior to country missions, and in-country training on request. The SU will also help members find appropriate existing capacity building processes.

ii. Dialogue

**The Partnership will facilitate peer-to-peer exchanges** among members by helping countries identify the most appropriate existing workshops, meetings, and dialogues, as well as by supporting ad-hoc

dialogues to support south-south learning and other useful exchanges in response to country needs. The Support Unit will also **develop online platforms** in collaboration with members.

- 1) **Partnership Forum:** The Partnership Forum brings together all partners, enabling exchange between all members of the Partnership and a communal space to take stock of progress. Countries will be invited to share lessons and successes from which others can benefit, will be given the space to discuss issues of common interest or concern, and to discuss relevant knowledge resources.
- 2) **Partnership Convening:** The Support Unit will work with partners to identify areas where there are common knowledge support needs. These needs will be shared with the Partnership, to invite offers of support from partners able to provide the necessary services and ensure that we leverage work already underway across partner institutions. Partnership convening will concentrate on the Focus Areas.
- 3) **Targeted Country Exchanges** are opportunities for intimate experience sharing on specific topics, on request by any member country. The Support Unit will rapidly respond to a country’s request and provide funds for near-term convening to assist the country in its efforts. Participation, format and timing would be determined by the requesting country.
- 4) **Online Partnership Learning Platform:** The Support Unit will work with partners to establish an online Partnership learning platform for direct exchanges among Partnership members at various levels, including focal points, in-country facilitators, and implementing partners. This platform will support peer-to-peer dialogue and learning on specific issues requested by member countries. A moderator will manage and structure discussions and help capture lessons learned. Interested members will be able to join sub-group discussions that will be organized around country-prioritized themes, (e.g. sectors,); useful country groupings (e.g., middle-income countries exploring transport electrification), or other knowledge gap areas.

### iii. Outreach

**The Partnership Support Unit will develop some targeted outreach products aimed at inspiring greater action both within and beyond its membership.** Its five major products, detailed below, will have corresponding review and approval processes as outlined.

Product	Description	Development Process	Review Process	Frequency of Publication
<b>Partnership in Action Report</b>	Communicates the Partnership’s Annual Progress. Highlights Success Stories and Lessons Learned across all Partnership regions and sectors.	SU compiles content from its yearlong process of country engagement, outreach to members, forums, knowledge sharing platforms, etc. (ie all the aspects of the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outlines and key messages shared with SC for comment</li> <li>• Review by Support Unit and SC members</li> <li>• Sign off by Global Director and by Co-Chairs</li> </ul>	1 x per year



		share and reflect process)		
<b>“Insights from the Partnership” briefs</b>	Provide insight and a broader perspective on the NDC Partnership’s 4 annual focus areas (see above)	The support unit will write these based on information gleaned by its share/reflect process, as well as by contracting experts to provide background and direction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal review by Support Unit</li> <li>• Peer review by 1-2 experts not in the Support Unit</li> <li>• Signoff by Global director and specific countries profiled or quoted</li> </ul>	4x per year (1x per year for each focus area)
<b>Case Studies</b>	Profile Successful National-Level examples of NDC Mitigation and Adaptation so that other countries can learn from them	SU collaborates with external research partners (e.g. LEADS-GP, GIZ) and/or hires contractors to develop case studies based on the NDC Partnership’s in-country work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SU reviews for quality and relevance, defers to peer review processes of collaborating organizations</li> <li>• Ensure approval by country covered</li> </ul>	Weekly/Monthly
<b>Success Stories, Blogs, Videos, other Communications Products</b>	Elevate particularly compelling success stories coming from case studies, country learning, etc. to share with a wider audience in an accessible format	SU Knowledge and Communications team produce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SU review</li> <li>• Signoff by Global Director</li> </ul>	Monthly or bi-monthly
<b>Expert Briefings</b>	Provide an external, expert perspective on an aspect of NDC implementation that does not necessarily represent the views of the Partnership	Written upon invitation of the SU or upon request by an expert, particularly (but not necessarily) NDC Partnership partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SU light, editorial review</li> <li>• Signoff by Global Director</li> </ul>	Monthly or bi-monthly