



STRATEGY FOR ENGAGING MAJOR EMERGING ECONOMIES

NDC 
PARTNERSHIP



BACKGROUND

Major Emerging Economies (MEEs) face the challenge of addressing growing social and economic needs while reducing emissions and ensuring their economic development. Together with industrialized countries, MEEs are key to advancing sustainable pathways and achieving the goals set in the Paris Agreement, especially to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius or well below 2 degrees Celsius. So far, however, the Partnership's engagement with MEE members has been limited.

Evidence suggests this is because MEEs:

- Have significant expertise and resources available in country, both in the public and private sectors.
- Have well-established access to NDC-related technical assistance (TA).
- Are engaged in periodic dialogs with development partners on climate issues on a bilateral basis.

Seeing the need for a better alignment among those providing support and considering the experience of MEEs as valuable counterparts for the overall objective of the NDC Partnership, the Partnership's Steering Committee decided on the 26th-27th March 2020 to commission a taskforce that develops a strategy for engaging MEEs.

Of the top 25 greenhouse gas (GHG)-emitting countries worldwide, 15 are members of the Partnership – seven developed economies (including the collective EU28) and eight MEEs. As a coalition that includes developed and developing countries working together for a common objective, it is important for the Partnership to effectively deliver results from all its members.

The Partnership supports developing country members to accelerate Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) implementation, through processes outlined in the Country Engagement Strategy (CES), as well as enhancing the quality and ambition of their NDCs through the Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP). The NDC Partnership is currently supporting six of the eight MEEs listed in Table 1 – two being supported through the NDC Partnership Support Unit, while six were receiving support through CAEP. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Partnership launched an initiative to support country members in designing and implementing climate-compatible, low-emission and green recovery programs via the provision of economic advisors. Three MEEs requested support in this matter. The Partnership supports countries' efforts to share learning on NDC enhancement and implementation through its Knowledge and Learning work.



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TABLE 1. NDC PARTNERSHIP MEMBER COUNTRIES AMONG THE TOP 25 GLOBAL GHG EMITTERS

Country	GHG emissions (MtCO ₂ e) ¹	Global rank	Global emission share (%)	Global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) share (%)	CAEP support	Country engagement	Economic advisory support
USA	5,794.35	2	12.26%	24.7%			
EU28	3,333.15	4	7.05%	18.0%			
Indonesia	1,703.86	6	3.61%	1.2%	●	●	●
Brazil	1,420.58	7	3.01%	1.7%			
Japan	1,154.72	8	2.44%	6.0%			
Canada	763.44	10	1.62%	1.9%			
Mexico	695.26	11	1.47%	1.3%	●		●
Democratic Republic of Congo	681.67	12	1.44%	0.1%		●	
Australia	619.26	15	1.31%	1.6%			
South Africa	520.50	16	1.10%	0.4%	●	●	
United Kingdom	441.13	18	0.93%	3.3%			
Pakistan	438.22	19	0.93%	0.3%	●	●	
Thailand	431.22	20	0.91%	0.6%			
Argentina	395.50	21	0.84%	0.5%	●		
Viet Nam	364.43	23	0.77%	0.3%	●	●	
Nigeria	357.52	24	0.76%	0.5%	●	●	●

Source: World Resources Institute, CAIT data, NDC Partnership Knowledge Portal, 2016. GDP from World Bank, 201x

¹ These GHG emission numbers and global rank are calculated with land-use change and forestry-related emissions.



MAJOR EMERGING ECONOMIES: TARGETED ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

This strategy proposes an approach for the Partnership to deepen the collaboration with MEE members and, ideally, bring additional MEEs on board by addressing their specific needs.

It offers guidance on:

- Engaging MEEs, both at the political and technical level, targeting comprehensive and transformational action (and requests for support) that enable NDC enhancement.
- Supporting more ambitious global climate action based on the business case for NDCs and the Partnership's ability to pool resources enabling large-scale concerted transformative activities.

This strategy builds on the Partnership's core principle of supporting country-driven processes, including responding to country members' explicit requests. It highlights how established Partnership processes and lessons learned can be adapted and/or reinforced to add value for the Partnership's MEEs. The strategy will also build on ongoing outreach activities of other key stakeholders, notably the Secretary General of the United Nations, and other U.N. agencies as well as through bilateral activities of Partnership members.

Whereas all countries and stakeholders can benefit from the Partnership's Knowledge and Learning Platform, direct country support for TA and financing is limited to members. The aim of this strategy is to generate a joint narrative that can be used by Partnership members to both attract MEEs to join the Partnership and, for those MEEs who are already members, to intensify their engagement with the Partnership.

The Steering Committee will oversee the progress in implementing this strategy. The core elements of the strategy will be incorporated into the 2021-2025 Work Program and be included in the M&E framework. The Support Unit and engaged members will provide updates to the Steering Committee on progress in countries in which this strategy is being applied. The Partnership's 2021-2025 Work Program will include relevant outcomes and key performance indicators in the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework, and, together with qualitative input, will assess progress. The Support Unit will organize a stop-and-reflect exercise with members of the Taskforce and participating countries to take stock and consider any necessary course correction.



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ADDED VALUE OF ENGAGING WITH THE NDC PARTNERSHIP

MEEs already engage with bilateral and multilateral actors on climate action. This strategy aims to underline the added value of engagement in the Partnership for the MEEs and bilateral and multilateral actors.

The availability of the MEEs' expertise, access to TA and regular dialogues with development partners distinguish MEEs from most member countries, which use the Partnership's Country Engagement instruments more holistically, often due to their limited resources.

However, the Partnership's inclusive approach provides opportunities for MEEs to mainstream NDC-related support across sectors and leverage international support.

Based on existing formats for exchange, the Partnership can:

- Facilitate political dialogue based on the challenges and needs related to NDC implementation.
- Provide a platform for knowledge and peer exchange in which MEEs can share their experiences and demonstrate their regional/global leadership on specific topics.
- Support countries to ensure interaction with development partners is coordinated both horizontally at the country level and vertically directly with partners' headquarters.
- Provide a more diverse and programmatic approach in responding to requests for support from countries, in which services may vary, possibly including framing policies, legal frameworks and/or strategies, conceptualizing, developing and implementing bankable projects, setting up systems and processes and building capacity on measuring, reporting and verification.
- Build on the business case(s) for enhanced NDCs by focusing on the countries' expressed needs on issues ranging from e-mobility to off-grid renewable energy to precision agriculture.
- Deploy the collective strength of individual members of the Partnership to leverage both resources and skillsets.
- Build a "one-stop" platform in which a country's request for support is communicated, sourced and programmed through responses from multiple partners, thereby reducing overall transaction costs for the countries.
- Reach out to development partners, beyond those already present at the country level, if respective MEEs express such an interest.
- Facilitate and/or support diversified and flexible TA at the global level that can be quickly deployed.
- Leverage the convening power of the Partnership's simultaneous and equal focus on climate, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and financing for development.
- Offer additional and/or standalone activities on issues, such as private-sector engagement, regulatory frameworks and facilitating private-sector investment.

CORE ELEMENTS OF OUTREACH TO MEEs

Communicating this value addition to MEEs requires a concerted effort that the Support Unit could coordinate with interested members. If MEEs express their interest in collaborating with Partnership members, the Support Unit can then lead/co-lead the aforementioned activities and help to strengthen their engagement. The sequencing of these activities would depend both on specific country needs and members' ongoing work.

These activities may include:

RAPID ASSESSMENT, ANALYSIS AND DIVISION OF LABOUR



- **Mapping ongoing support and/or engagement, by members or the Support Unit, to create a basis for dialogue with the country's representatives. Based on the results of the mapping, and with inputs from members, the Support Unit can,**
 - Prepare a country-specific narrative to be reviewed and endorsed by relevant Partnership members,
 - Request members to assign high-level contacts (Ambassador, Chargé d'Affaires, Heads of Cooperation, Country/Program Director) in embassies and their country offices. Such points of contact can assure alignment and visibility of joint work at the country level.
- **Prepare a joint (NDC Partnership/MEE) analysis on:**
 - Country-specific needs for implementing the current NDC
 - Support needed to enhance their future NDC

This analysis must include inputs from national government representatives and, depending on their guidance, possibly subnational and civil society actors.

OUTREACH, DEFINITION OF PRIORITIES AND PLANNING



- Responding to time-sensitive country needs and, depending on the expressed priorities of the MEE, following a sector-based approach.
- Facilitating outreach by Headquarters and focal points at the country level to other key partners (e.g., U.N. agencies and other initiatives) to ensure alignment and complementarity of strategies and support.
- Developing a MEE Country Engagement Plan (MEECEP) for a specific country, based on a joint analysis, focusing on key deliverables by Partnership members.
- Soliciting support for the implementing of MEECEP through Partnership

instruments. Such solicitation may include coordination calls among interested members as well as in-country discussions with members. It may also include support that can be quickly mobilized but has not yet been programmed and/or potential business opportunities.

FACILITATION AND ALIGNMENT



- Organizing joint calls/meetings between the MEE government and partnership members to discuss potential support and cooperation. The Support Unit can work with the government to determine a timeline.
- Organizing a high-level meeting with ministers, ambassadors and other heads of missions to present both existing support and highlight where support is needed. Such a meeting may be structured to introduce the start of the Partnership's delivery of support. This will create a forum for businesses and nonstate actors to engage in dialogue on opportunities to accelerate climate action. Opportunities to have meetings back to back with other high-level events will be assessed.
- Exploring possibilities for targeted financing for NDC-relevant investment projects building upon the Partnership's project information notes (PINs) or through other Partnership members' mechanisms.
- Elaborating ways for MEEs to coordinate in-country support, primarily by engaging embassies and trade/business councils as well as by deploying public diplomacy.

BROADEN ENGAGEMENT AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING



- Engaging MEEs in peer exchange and knowledge-sharing activities. This will include inviting nonmembers to Partnership dialogues and events to facilitate nonmembers' awareness of and familiarity with the Partnership.
- Preparing specific business cases for thematic areas of an NDC, based on joint analysis to gauge the interest of the business community, trade associations and line ministries.
- Identifying specific trade opportunities and engagement plans (i.e., trade missions) between members of the Partnership based on the above.
- Hosting business fora, in which business opportunities for both MEE and member companies are highlighted. Such fora can also include engagement by investors, development banks and other financial institutions.
- Following up regularly by means of standard Partnership methods, including regular stock taking.



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