

2025 Regional NDC Clinics Asia and Pacific

10-11 September

**Opportunities and solutions for
implementing ambitious NDCs:
Governance, Investments
Prioritization, and Innovative
Finance**



**Asia and Pacific
NDC Clinic**





DATE: 10–11 September 2025



VENUE: United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand



TARGET AUDIENCE: Representatives from the administrations in charge of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) process and representatives from the ministries responsible for budgeting and climate finance of Asia and the Pacific countries¹, Facilitators, and climate finance and NDC experts from partner organizations².



ORGANIZERS: NDC Partnership, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) including its Regional Collaboration Center (RCC) for Asia and the Pacific.



BACKGROUND: The effective implementation of NDCs is fundamental to translating climate pledges into tangible action and measurable progress. Successful NDC implementation demonstrates a country’s commitment to achieving its climate goals, fosters credibility within the international community, and provides critical insights for the development of future NDCs. Further, it can contribute to national social and economic development while offering opportunities to catalyze the transformation of key sectors, stimulate innovation in clean technologies, and facilitate the mobilization of climate finance by sending clear signals to investors, thereby creating a positive feedback loop that supports increasingly ambitious climate action.

Many developing countries continue to encounter significant challenges in accessing climate finance, which is a key enabler for NDC implementation and crucial for raising ambition in the design and implementation of NDCs. This was clearly highlighted by several Parties that participated at the 2024 NDC Regional Forums that were organized by the secretariat in collaboration with UNEP, UNDP, and the NDC Partnership.

Building on the 2024 NDC Forums, the Asia–Pacific NDC Clinic took place from 10–11 September 2025, at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Bangkok, Thailand, back-to-back with the 21st Seoul Initiative on Green Growth (SINGG) Policy Forum, which took place from 7–9 September 2025).

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¹ Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, Fiji, Georgia, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Moldova, Mongolia, Nauru, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Yemen.

² NDC Partnership, UNFCCC RCCAP, UNFCCC, UNEP, UNESCAP, GIZ, UNDP, CPI, Convergence, IRENA, AIGCC, OECD, IEA, C40 – CHAMP, AIIB, GCF, Switch-Asia.



OBJECTIVE: The objective of the NDC Clinics is to provide participating countries with practical support to exchange knowledge and strategies across several key areas. These include identifying needs for NDC implementation, with a focus on facilitating access to finance and other means of implementation; enabling alignment around NDC implementation and broader policy frameworks by strengthening institutional capacities and inter-ministerial coordination; and advancing strategies to attract private capital through bankable projects that are financially viable, environmentally sustainable, and socio-economically beneficial. The Clinics also emphasize effective stakeholder engagement by bringing together governments, financial institutions, and private sector investors, as well as deepening the understanding of approaches to mobilizing private finance, including through the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), innovative instruments, incentives, risk mitigation measures, and blended finance. Finally, the NDC Clinics aim to foster knowledge-based implementation by integrating scientific data into investment planning to maximize climate, economic, and social impacts.



STRUCTURE: The Clinics were structured into four segments, each addressing different aspects of NDC investment and implementation: (i) Enabling Institutional/Governance Arrangements for NDC Implementation; (ii) Prioritizing Investment Needs; (iii) Financial Mechanisms and Bankable Pipeline Development; and (iv) NDC Clinic mapping exercise.



Institutional/Governance Arrangements for Enabling NDC Finance

Governance forms the backbone of climate action, as it is essential for mobilizing investments and effectively deploying climate finance. Countries generally have institutional frameworks at the national, regional, and local levels, often led by the Ministry of Environment and, in some cases, by the highest executive level. Innovative initiatives such as one-stop shops or national green financing windows help facilitate private investment. Setting the stage, GIZ introduced its Global NDC 3.0 Support, emphasizing integrated and forward-looking approaches to NDC implementation. The Central Bank of Mongolia and the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of Uzbekistan shared the following experiences:

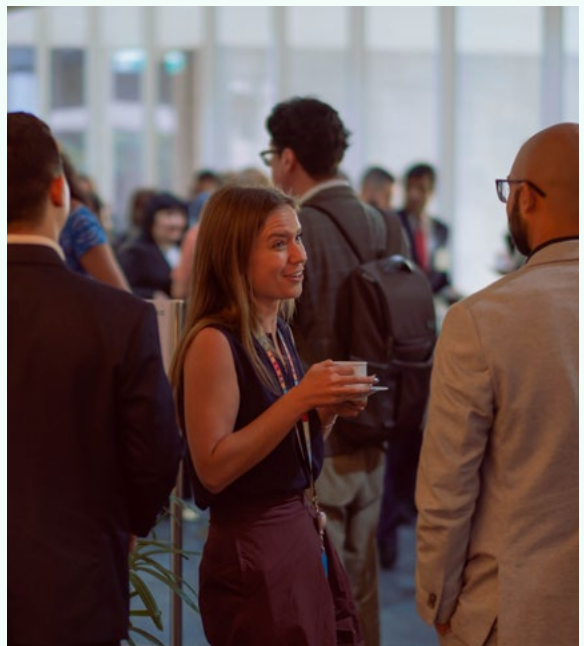
- Government of Mongolia: Shared their experiences on climate scenario analysis for the banking sector in Mongolia, led by the Bank of Mongolia, highlighting the role of financial institutions in climate risk assessment.
- Government of Uzbekistan: shared insights on leading a coordinated and inclusive approach to NDC planning and implementation, underscoring the importance of cross-sectoral collaboration and stakeholder engagement.

Challenges:

- **Legislative and regulatory gaps:** Incomplete or outdated legal frameworks hinder the enforcement and mainstreaming of climate policies.
- **Fragmented institutional responsibilities and weak coordination:** Poor inter-ministerial collaboration and unclear mandates lead to inefficiencies and siloed implementation.
- **Limited human and technical capacities:** Shortage of skilled personnel, inadequate MRV systems, and lack of technical expertise constrain NDC implementation.
- **Insufficient data and information systems:** Weak information sharing and the absence of centralized monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) /data platforms limit transparency and decision-making.
- **Vulnerability to political transitions:** Institutional arrangements lack resilience, resulting in discontinuity of climate initiatives when the government changes.
- Engage with financial institutions and explore instruments like green bonds or Green Climate Fund (GCF) accreditation.

Good Practices:

- **Strengthen Institutional Coordination and Leadership**
 - Establish high-level coordination mechanisms endorsed by government leadership.
 - Adopt climate change laws to institutionalize coordination and accountability.
 - Enhance vertical and horizontal integration among national, provincial, and local institutions.
- **Build Capacity and Deploy Expertise**
 - Implement long-term capacity development and knowledge management strategies.
 - Train and deploy climate finance focal points in key ministries.
- **Improve Planning and Investment Frameworks**
 - Formulate costed NDC investment plans with broad stakeholder engagement.
 - Integrate NDCs into national development plans and budget cycles for stability and alignment.
- **Enhance Transparency and Data Systems**
 - Support country-owned dashboards and MRV systems for transparency and tracking.
 - Use digital tools and AI for scenario planning and financial proposal development.
- **Mobilize Finance and Stakeholder Engagement**
 - Promote multi-stakeholder platforms engaging private sector, civil society organizations (CSOs), and academia.
 - Engage with financial institutions and explore instruments like green bonds or Green Climate Fund (GCF) accreditation.



Prioritizing Investment Needs

Prioritization must integrate climate interventions with economic and social priorities, vulnerable population empowerment issues. This requires a multi-sectoral and multi-level approach, linked to governance.

This segment featured a series of presentations focused on transforming climate commitments into actionable and investable strategies. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) opened with insights into the importance of developing ambitious, implementable, and investable NDCs, emphasizing the need for robust planning and financial frameworks. The Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS) of the Republic of Indonesia and, the Ministry of Tourism and Environment of the Maldives and the Climate Change Commission of the Philippines shared the following experiences:

- **Government of Indonesia:** Integration of climate action into national development planning and budgeting, highlighting how institutional alignment can mobilize resources and ensure policy coherence. The session then highlighted achievements and best practices in NDC investment planning.
- **Government of the Maldives:** presented its progress in advancing NDC implementation, underscoring the importance of technical soundness and risk management as key factors for bankability. The Climate Change Department emphasized the role of inclusive governance and structured planning in sustaining long-term climate action.
- **Government of the Philippines:** shared its experience in coordinating multi-sectoral efforts and mobilizing climate finance.

Challenges:

- **Inadequate Investment Frameworks:** Absence of comprehensive investment plans, climate budget tagging, and clear taxonomies limits prioritization and tracking of climate finance.
- **Data and MRV Limitations:** Persistent data gaps, outdated information, and weak MRV systems hinder evidence-based decision-making and demonstration of project investability.
- **Institutional and Coordination Challenges:** Weak collaboration between finance and environment ministries impairs alignment of climate and fiscal policies.
- **Economic and Geopolitical Constraints:** Macroeconomic risks, debt distress, and geopolitical uncertainties reduce fiscal space and deter long-term investment.
- **Limited Consideration of Co-Benefits:** Socio-economic co-benefits are often excluded from prioritization processes, weakening political and public support for climate investments.





Good Practices:

- **Institutional and Policy Integration**
 - Mainstream NDCs into medium-term national development plans and budget cycles.
 - Strengthen inter-ministerial coordination and align climate actions with broader development policies.
 - Institutionalize investment councils/advisory boards to ensure transparent and inclusive prioritization.
- **Strategic Planning and Prioritization Tools**
 - Apply climate budget tagging and green taxonomies to guide investment decisions.
 - Use evidence-based tools and nexus approaches (climate-energy-socioeconomic) to reflect national goals and co-benefits.
- **Financing Mechanisms and Partnerships**
 - Promote public-private partnerships (PPPs) and blended finance for key sectors.
 - Mobilize domestic resources through fiscal reforms (e.g., eco-taxes, pollution levies).
 - Leverage carbon pricing policies to generate additional revenue streams.
- **Project Readiness and Investor Confidence**
 - Develop bankable project pipelines with clear criteria aligned with donor requirements.
 - Build robust MRV and sector-specific tracking systems to enhance transparency and investor trust.
- **Knowledge Exchange and International Support**
 - Facilitate regional exchange of best practices and low-cost technologies (e.g., irrigation).
 - Engage with international partners (International Monetary Fund, World Bank) to integrate transition risk analysis and attract financing.





Financial Mechanisms and Bankable Pipeline Development

A clear, transparent framework with a strong focus on environmental criteria helps attract investments from sectoral ministries, banks, and the private sector. Several financial mechanisms are available to unlock climate finance. However, access is still a challenge for some countries, particularly those in the Pacific.

This segment focused on enhancing the financial architecture necessary for effective NDC implementation. UNEP set the scene by emphasizing the importance of developing financial mechanisms and bankable project pipelines, highlighting the role of strategic deployment of national budgets, linking development and climate planning and more effective institutional coordination. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change of Fiji and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand shared the following experiences:

- Government of Fiji: National Climate Finance Strategy, the NDC Investment Plan with the examples of the Electric Vehicle Network Development, and the Rural Electrification Fund
- Government of Thailand: Presented the National Climate Finance Strategy including the green taxonomy, NDC Investment plan, Thailand's Sustainability-linked Bond, and the National Climate Change Fund.

Challenges:

- **Limited Project Preparation Capacity:** Many countries lack the technical and institutional capacity to prepare investment-ready projects that meet both financial and technical standards.
- **Early-Stage Financing Gaps:** Insufficient funding for feasibility studies, risk assessments, and pre-investment activities prevents projects from maturing to bankable stages.
- **Weak MRV and Data Systems:** Lack of standardized monitoring, reporting, and verification systems reduces investor confidence and hinders transparency.
- **Private Sector Engagement Challenges:** Adaptation finance suffers from weak private sector involvement due to unclear returns, regulatory gaps, and limited risk mitigation instruments.
- **Misaligned Expectations and Enabling Environment:** Varying definitions of "bankability" among financiers lead to mismatches with government-prepared projects. Also, legal, and regulatory shortcomings, along with limited guarantees and risk mitigation tools, discourage private investment.

Good Practices:

- **Strengthen Project Preparation and Technical Support**
 - Establish project preparation facilities and provide technical assistance to improve feasibility, risk management, and alignment with investor expectations.
 - Foster structured dialogues with the private sector to co-create investment-ready pipelines.
- **Mobilize and De-Risk Private Capital**
 - Deploy blended finance and de-risking instruments (e.g. guarantees, insurance) to unlock private sector investment.
 - Promote PPP models in key sectors like energy, housing, agriculture, and transport.
- **Build National Financing Infrastructure**
 - Develop national climate funds and investment platforms to centralize and coordinate financing efforts.
 - Partner with domestic development and commercial banks to expand access to international climate finance (e.g., GCF accreditation).
- **Enhance Transparency and Investment Criteria**
 - Establish MRV systems, national registries, and digital platforms to build investor confidence.
 - Adopt sustainable finance frameworks and taxonomies to guide investment decisions and ensure clarity between governments and financiers.
- **Leverage Regional and International Support**
 - Encourage regional collaboration to share tools, technologies (e.g., low-cost irrigation), and financing approaches.
 - Utilize carbon markets and Article 6 mechanisms as incentives, and engage international partners (e.g., IMF, WB) for transition risk analysis.

NDC Clinic Mapping Exercise

During this segment, participants analyzed their country-specific investment priorities, identified needs for technical and financial support, necessary reforms, capacity gaps, and the key institutional structures required to advance climate-aligned investment portfolios. This strategic mapping exercise, guided by experts and inspired by good practices from other countries, aimed to define concrete actions and foster partnership opportunities beyond the Clinic.

The exercise resulted in a working document for each country, designed as a living framework to guide follow-up actions, peer learning, and partner engagement.

- 1. Priority areas of action:** Each team identified up to three urgent or strategic priorities, linked to sectors with high mitigation or adaptation potential and aligned with national development plans and the SDGs.
- 2. Concrete actions and next steps:** For each priority, specific, time-bound actions were defined, with an assessment of their feasibility, institutional maturity, and readiness level (idea, feasibility study, or finance-ready project).
- 3. Institutional leadership and capacity needs:** Responsible institutions were designated for each action. Teams also identified capacity gaps, enabling reforms, and the tools or methodologies needed to facilitate implementation.
- 4. Indicative timeline:** Actions were scheduled with short-, medium-, and long-term milestones to structure implementation over time.

The exercise was conducted collaboratively with the support of facilitators. A summary of the national mapping outputs was presented in plenary by representatives from Maldives, Georgia Solomon Islands and Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Key Challenges

1. Translating discussions into actionable, country-specific plans with clear timelines and responsibilities.
2. Limited ability to identify and articulate specific support needs and match them with partner offers.
3. Difficulty in sustaining peer learning and regional cooperation beyond the Clinic.

Key Takeaways

1. Structured mapping template helps countries outline concrete priorities, support needs, and potential partners.
2. Peer exchange sessions (partner-country dialogues) support cross-learning and can inspire context-appropriate innovations.
3. Actionable commitments demonstrate how Clinics can result in tangible next steps.
4. Linking NDC mapping to donor pipelines ensures alignment with multilateral development banks (MDBs), UN agencies, and bilateral programs.
5. Institutional follow-up mechanisms (task forces or inter-ministerial committees) are necessary to keep momentum.

Conclusions

Across all four segments of the Asia–Pacific NDC Clinics, common challenges emerge: institutional fragmentation, weak coordination, limited technical capacity, insufficient domestic financing, and over–reliance on donor–driven approaches. These gaps undermine the ability of countries to operationalize their NDCs in a coherent and sustainable manner.

However, the Clinics also highlighted promising solutions and success factors. Stronger governance frameworks, climate budget tagging, blended finance, project preparation facilities, and the institutionalization of MRV systems can create enabling conditions for scaling up climate action. Importantly, mobilizing political leadership, engaging the private sector, and mainstreaming climate priorities into national development strategies are key levers for success.

Moving forward, the emphasis must be on translating these insights into concrete, country–owned plans that combine fiscal reforms, innovative financing, and inclusive stakeholder engagement. Such an integrated approach will be critical to bridge the gap between ambition and implementation, and to accelerate progress towards the Paris Agreement goals.

