

CLIMATE AND DEVELOPMENT MINISTERIAL SECRETARIAT: SUBMISSION ON THE BAKU TO BELEM ROADMAP TO 1.3T

(b) What strategies can be implemented to enhance and scale up public and private financing mechanisms for climate adaptation, especially in vulnerable regions?

The following submission outlines ideas from the Climate and Development Ministerial (C&DM) Secretariat, based on recent technical work undertaken on Country Platforms for adaptation, which we believe are an effective strategy to enhance and scale up public and private financing mechanisms for climate adaptation, especially in vulnerable regions.

Launched at COP26 in 2021, the C&DM is a high-level forum which unites and convenes climate and development ministers and other vested actors, and addresses barriers for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in accessing affordable, timely adaptation funding. The C&DM mechanism is supported by IIED and E3G.

Why scaling up adaptation finance matters for vulnerable regions – and its connection to country platforms

Climate-vulnerable countries and communities face a persistent and escalating challenge: securing and coordinating finance at the scale and speed needed to achieve their own development and climate objectives. Traditional project-based aid models are often fragmented, short-term, cumbersome, and slow to deliver — particularly for adaptation finance. Their transaction-heavy nature and limited scope make it harder to mobilise and scale both public and private finance.

In response, a growing number of countries and funders are turning to country platforms (CPs) to streamline and integrate finance flows and strengthen national ownership to unlock sustained investment. Recent political momentum shows that CP-like approaches are gaining traction. In 2023, member countries of the Climate and Development Ministerial agreed on a main goal of pushing for more programmatic and nationally-owned approaches (like CPs) to adaptation finance.

The G20 Rio de Janeiro Leaders' Declaration explicitly endorses the voluntary development of CPs as flexible, country-led mechanisms to mobilise public and private capital. At the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4), the Seville Commitment called for resources to implement UNFCCC decisions and set milestones for 5–10 countries to launch country-led financing initiatives by COP30, and for 100 countries to have integrated national financing frameworks or CPs by 2030. As one of the five pillars under the Circle of Finance Ministers' work, CPs are recognised as strategic vehicles for scaling adaptation investment and instruments to strengthen the financial architecture of vulnerable countries and mobilise climate finance to at least USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2035.

This political momentum is reflected in practice through Brazil's Climate and Ecological Transformation Investment Platform; Egypt's Nexus of Water, Food and Energy (NWFE); Kenya's adaptation-focused platform; Vanuatu's NDC Investment Platform; and LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR), which demonstrates how country-led initiatives can blend public and private finance for adaptation. Experts caution, however, that most platforms currently operate in middle-income countries and the model requires careful adaptation for climate-vulnerable countries.

The C&DM Technical Workshop on Country Platforms (27-28th June, Seville) identified five strategies for making CPs work for vulnerable countries' contexts and scaling up adaptation finance:

1. **Make CPs genuinely country-led, not donor-driven:** CPs must be designed, governed, and implemented by the countries they serve, with effective leadership rooted in national institutions and priorities. Donor involvement should be supportive rather than directive, aligning with national plans, budget cycles, and locally determined needs. This ensures national ownership, long-term commitment, and alignment with broader development and climate goals.
2. **Fund the enabling environment, not just delivery:** Inadequate early-stage resourcing often stalls many CPs between planning and investment. LDCs and SIDS have repeatedly expressed frustration at requirements to produce “bankable pipelines” without access to the funding, skills, and institutional capacity to create them. The issue is not ambition, but the lack of predictable, upfront financing for project design, feasibility studies, and both project and broader national capacity building — particularly in contexts with overstretched planning units and limited technical expertise. CPs need integrated, fast-disbursing project preparation facilities (“sparkplug funds”) that provide grants and technical assistance to bridge this gap and accelerate investment readiness.
3. **Reform and harmonise finance architecture to reduce transaction burdens:** Effective CPs require a suite of financing tools — from quick-start resources for urgent needs to long-term, sustainable finance from public, private, and philanthropic sources — delivered through coordinated stakeholder engagement, i.e. the capital stack. Donor and institutional silos create overlapping safeguards, reporting demands, and approval processes that strain LDCs and SIDS’ administrative capacity, delay disbursement and increase transaction costs. Donors and MDBs should adapt systems to recognise national CP processes as functionally equivalent, harmonising application procedures, safeguards, reporting, and timelines. Pooled funds, joint appraisals, mutual recognition of safeguards, and co-financing frameworks can significantly lower transaction costs and accelerate delivery. Recent efforts to reform MDBs, including the G20 Capital Adequacy Framework and commitments from the World Bank and regional banks to strengthen country-level collaboration and co-financing, provide an opportunity to embed CPs within a more supportive financial architecture.
4. **Embed continuous peer learning and evidence generation:** South–south and south–north collaboration can strengthen CP effectiveness. Structured feedback loops should be embedded in CP design to adapt approaches over time, including capturing lessons from practice, developing monitoring and evaluation systems that support learning rather than just compliance, and ensuring that all actors, from local communities to regional networks, can contribute to and benefit from shared evidence. Initiatives like the Seville Platform of Action and upcoming guidance on integrating cities demonstrate how sharing experience across countries and sectors can improve platform design.
5. **Build inclusive governance and multi-level trust:** CPs can only succeed with strong collaboration and solidarity across all actors from local communities to national governments, regional bodies, and international partners. This requires clarity of roles, transparency on resources and capacities, and recognition of the unique contributions each makes. Political ownership must encompass a “whole-of-society” and “whole-of-government” approach. Trust, inclusivity, and shared accountability are critical. Careful integration of finance ministers in platform design and implementation is essential: the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action explains that they can bridge policy and investment, coordinate across government and with external partners, and develop pipelines of bankable projects. National ownership and strong institutional capacity remain fundamental, yet the Coalition also cautions that platforms can be costly and complex if not properly designed and coordinated.

Climate & Development Ministerial

For further information we attach a private Summary Note for the Technical Workshop on Country Platforms, C&DM, 27-28th June, Seville.

The Baku to Belem Roadmap should reflect both the importance of Country Platforms as a delivery model for climate finance, as well as the specific strategies for tailoring CPs to work in vulnerable contexts and to scale up adaptation finance. The roadmap should endorse the Seville Commitment milestones and make concrete recommendations for how to ensure that CPs are fit for purpose to mobilise adaptation finance in all contexts.

More generally, C&DM's work is focused on the goals of 1) enhance country-owned programmatic financing; 2) ease access to climate finance; and 3) scale all sources of adaptation finance. To support the achievement of the goals, C&DM and partners generate evidence, toolkits and other products to fill knowledge gaps, and drive forward strategic and informed policies and action. You may be interested to see:

- [The realities of country platforms for LDCs and SIDS: ten key lessons | IIED Publications Library](#)
- [Good practices in accessing and delivering adaptation finance to support Small Island Developing States and least developed countries](#)
- [Adaptation Finance Initiatives Mapper](#)

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