



Submission to the Co-Chairs of the Work Programme on Climate Finance, including on Article 9, Paragraph 1, of the Paris Agreement

Submitted by the International Climate Councils Network · 03 September 2026. For the attention of Co-Chairs Apollonia Miola and Yolando Velasco · climatefinance@unfccc.int

We welcome the Co-Chairs' invitation of 16 July 2026 (Ref. MOI/MTP/O/Co-Chairs/CFWP) to submit further views on the Climate Finance Work Programme, including on Article 9, paragraph 1, of the Paris Agreement in the context of Article 9 as a whole. We submit these views as officially mandated climate councils, statutory or executive-branch entities operating at the country level as multi-stakeholder advisory bodies positioned between government, the private sector, and civil society. Our submission draws on direct experience within the national and international climate finance ecosystem as it relates to governance, systems innovation, and thought leadership.

Our central submission is that the barriers currently being examined by the Work Programme, namely, the provision and mobilisation of, access to, and transparency of climate finance, are fundamentally institutional in nature. Country-level coordinating institutions capable of directing, advising on, and coordinating climate finance flows are frequently absent, under-mandated, or under-resourced. Climate councils are the institutional layer specifically designed to fill this gap.

Leveraging climate councils to coordinate the provision and mobilisation of finance

Scaling up the provision and mobilisation of climate finance from varied sources depends less on the number of available instruments than on a country's capacity to coordinate them. Climate councils can build and institutionalise the governance structures, systems, and mechanisms needed to identify, link, and sequence nationally owned investment pipelines with providers of grants, concessional finance, and blended finance. By channelling these flows toward coordinated and credible points of entry (such as country platforms), councils can help replace the fragmented, competing proposals that often span multiple ministries and agencies. While climate councils are already actively supporting the domestic distribution of these funds, they require further dedicated support to scale and sustain this critical function. Furthermore, their multi-stakeholder mandate allows them to convene public and private capital around bankable pipelines, helping to lower the cost of capital that currently constrains mobilisation at scale. Councils can also help ensure that new instruments including debt-for-climate swaps and other state-contingent facilities, are structured to protect, rather than erode, recipient countries' long-term fiscal space.

Breaking down access barriers by positioning climate councils as essential readiness partners

The procedural, institutional, and capacity barriers that most consistently prevent developing countries from accessing available climate finance include:

- i. Fragmented and duplicative readiness and accreditation processes across providers.
- ii. Short-term, project-tied technical assistance that leaves no durable institutional capacity once it ends.
- iii. The absence, in many countries, of a standing multi-stakeholder body recognised by both governments and finance providers as a coordination point.

Climate councils directly address the third barrier. In doing so, they help ease the first two by communicating multi-stakeholder-endorsed climate-development agendas. We recommend that finance providers formally recognise officially mandated climate councils as country-level coordination and readiness partners. Furthermore, we urge funders to shift toward predictable, multi-year core funding for council secretariats rather than short-term, project-tied support. The latter is significantly less cost-effective, as it forces capacity to be rebuilt project by project rather than sustained within national institutions.

Filling the Institutional Gap in Climate Finance Transparency and MRV

Climate councils are well-positioned to strengthen transparency and measure progress, results, and outcomes. Their convening power and multi-stakeholder engagement provide a vantage point across government, the private sector, and

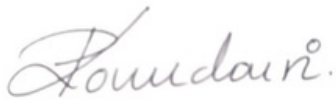
civil society that no single ministry holds alone. With an appropriate mandate and resourcing, councils can aggregate and help validate national data on climate finance flows. They can also provide continuity in outcome tracking across electoral and administrative cycles, and translate emerging international disclosure and reporting standards into formats usable within domestic monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) systems. We view this as a severely underused function: most transparency architecture is designed at the international or project level, with limited investment in the country-level institutional layer needed to sustain it between reporting cycles.

Advancing the Work Programme: prioritising a stocktake of country-level architecture

We recommend that the Work Programme explicitly examine the institutional dimension common to all three guiding questions: specifically, the extent to which country-level coordinating institutions exist, are mandated, and are resourced to perform the provision, access, and transparency functions described in this submission. A stocktake of existing country-level climate finance coordination architecture including officially mandated climate councils, where they exist, would provide valuable input for the Co-Chairs' summary note ahead of COP31. We would welcome the opportunity to engage directly with the Co-Chairs on this point ahead of the note's publication in October 2026.

We thank the Co-Chairs for their continued commitment to inclusive engagement and remain available for further exchange via climatefinance@unfccc.int.

Submitted on behalf of:



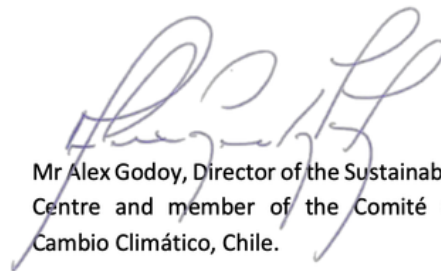
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