

**SUBMISSION BY FRANCE AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES**

**Subject: voluntary submission to the Paris Committee on Capacity Building (PCCB), on its following focus area for 2022: 'building capacity to facilitate the coherent implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) in the context of national development plans and sustainable recovery'.**

Paris, 31 March 2022

To facilitate coherent NDC implementation and planning in developing countries that are aligned with and support a sustainable recovery, in your experience, what are:

*the key interventions?*

Key interventions to facilitate a coherent NDC implementation that supports a sustainable recovery are establishing well-functioning, inclusive and transparent institutional processes and functions.

Key interventions include, but are not limited to:

- Process for integration of and agreement on the climate agenda across the whole of government
- Inclusive and transparent channels of information from different parts of society, including private sector, civil society, indigenous people, youth and women
- Strategy for enabling access to finance and an attractive investment climate
- No net harm safeguards
- Anti-corruption safeguards
- MRV for tracking performance and evaluation and continuous improvement of measures

Institutional strengthening or capacity building for implementation are common elements across all new or updated NDCs, illustrating more comprehensive and country-driven NDC update efforts compared to 2015.

In the EU, the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) is the key instrument to help the EU emerge stronger and more resilient from the current crisis. The RRF helps the EU achieve its target of climate neutrality by 2050 and sets Europe on a path of digital transition, creating jobs and spurring growth in the process. The RRF entered into force on 19 February 2021. It finances reforms and investments in Member States from the start of the pandemic in February 2020 until 31 December 2026.

*the enabling conditions?*

Having robust institutional processes and functions will facilitate just and efficient actions and aid distribution to respond to external shocks, like the covid-19 pandemic.

Based on the EU experience with the Recovery and Resilience Plans, important elements to ensure sustainable recovery and resilience plans are aligned with NDC implementation are:

- target setting in terms of dedicated climate and environmental spending,
- a decision to ensure that all other spending is not harmful to these objectives, a clear methodology to decide what counts as climate and environmental spending and to what degree, - According to the RRF Regulation, the assessment of the plans should ensure that each and every measure (i.e. each reform and each investment) within the plan complies with **the ‘do no significant harm’ principle (DNSH)**,
- advance guidance on the specific goals and types of projects that particularly need policy attention and financing (equivalent of our flagships),
- training to support development, implementation, and monitoring,
- disbursement conditional on milestones and targets providing a strong incentive to comply,
- clear political support at the highest levels and an appropriate organisational structure to reflect the political commitment.

The EU issued a Regulation (2021/240) establishing a Technical Support Instrument (TSI) that will help Member States drawing up their national Recovery and Resilience plans (NRRPs) to access funding under the EU’s RRF. This regulation enabled the European Commission to select Technical Support Instrument flagships to support MS by building capacity. The Commission also produced flagships in terms of EU-level priority areas for MS to spend on. There was no obligation for MS to actually spend according to these flagships, but they were strongly encouraged to and asked to report on.

*the key institutional barriers?*

Capacity building focused on individual skills development, is an important component, but lack of supporting robust and sustainable institutional arrangements and processes enhance fragmentation and endanger long-term and dependable planning and implementation of NDCs and recovery plans. Capacity must be anchored in institutions and processes, not dependent on individual employees.

*the capacity gaps and capacity-building needs?*

In the EU context (RRF implementation), public administrations are at the centre of the implementation of the plan. Member States should ensure that the administrative capacity needed for the effective implementation of the plans is present. In that context, addressing the country-specific recommendations linked to the efficiency of the public administration, business environment, public procurement, the effectiveness of justice systems and the fight against corruption and money-laundering, and in a broader sense to the respect of the Rule of Law can play an essential role to ensure a successful implementation.

*the knowledge and skills priorities?*

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How can existing capacity-building efforts be improved and what kind of new or additional capacity-building efforts are needed to ensure that coherent NDC implementation and planning in developing countries are aligned with and support a sustainable recovery? Who should be the target recipients of such capacity-building?

*At the subnational level:*

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*At the national level:*

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*At the regional level:*

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**Good case studies, best practices, tools and methodologies, lessons learned, or examples of support:**

*Please describe any that build capacity to facilitate coherent NDC implementation and planning in developing countries that are aligned with and support a sustainable recovery:*

#### 1. The NDC Partnership - BUILDING COUNTRY CAPACITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND ENHANCEMENT

The European Union has been a long-term partner, supporting the development of INDCs and mitigation actions under UNDP's Low Emission Development (LECB) Programme. The EU is now working with UNDP's NDC Support Programme to advance NDC planning and implementation, in coordination with the NDC Partnership. With EUROCLIMA+, the EU Commission is financing a program to support the implementation of NDCs in 18 partner countries in Latin America. EUROCLIMA+ also contributes to NDC Partnership initiatives, e.g. through the Economic Advisor Initiative, Advisors were deployed in the Dominican Republic, Peru and Ecuador to facilitate a Green Recovery and align it with countries NDCs.

The European Commission is also an official member of the NDC Partnership, so are individual EU member states such as Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden.

The NDC Partnership brings a diverse set of partners together to achieve concrete results. In their on-the-ground work in developing countries, they use a flexible, country-led engagement process to design and implement national climate and development action plans. Governments use these so called "NDC Partnership Plans" to identify national climate priorities, drive cross-government coordination, and leverage support for execution from our implementing and development partners. Many are being adopted as countries' official NDC implementation plans. The process of developing Partnership Plans itself triggers very valuable multi-stakeholder processes within partner countries, contributing to a "whole-of-government" approach and increase ownership for the NDC update and implementation processes. Upon request from partner countries, the NDC Partnership members further deploys "in-country facilitators" into partner ministries. Facilitators build the government's NDC partnership interface and also build partner government's capacity to coordinate and facilitate the NDC process directly, as applicable.

#### **Gender**

At the global level, the NDC Partnership is:

- Making partners' gender-related knowledge, tools, and resources more readily available to all countries.
- Facilitating country access to partners' capacity-building support and knowledge resources.
- Sharing gender mainstreaming successes, effective practices, and lessons learned from around the world.
- Reporting inspirational stories of women as agents of change via digital and print media.

#### **Youth**

To enhance youth capacity for climate engagement, the NDC Partnership is:

- Strengthening climate change capacity building for young people
- Designing youth-inclusive NDC processes at the country level
- Supporting youth participation in global NDC Partnership activities

#### 2. EU4CLIMATE

With continuing support of the European Commission, EU4Climate is assisting countries of the Eastern Partnership with setting new targets for reducing emissions, engaging a wide range of stakeholders in discussing these targets, and preparing implementation plans for the new NDCs. Despite the ongoing challenges, including pandemic, the EaP countries are working on increasing their ambition in fighting climate change. EU4Climate, together with the UNDP Climate Promise initiative, directly supported the NDC update in four countries of the region; and further helps with capacity building and communicating NDC targets in two more countries. EU4Climate assists with developing or updating four low emissions development strategies for the region. The EU4Climate assisted Armenia, Belarus, Moldova and Azerbaijan in preparing their updated NDCs to demonstrate increased climate ambitions and set their approach rethinking of economic development patterns, accelerating actions towards the transition to a more sustainable, resilient, and low-carbon economy. In Georgia and Ukraine, the EU4Climate project assisted with awareness-raising and communicating the revised NDC targets. Further support will be provided for the Eastern Partnership countries with the development of NDC implementation roadmaps and financial plans.

### 3. THE UN CLIMATE TECHNOLOGY CENTER AND NETWORK (CTCN)

The UN Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) works with countries, responding to their needs by providing technical support and guidance to develop a pipeline for environmentally sound technologies. In 2021 the CTCN published a guide for countries to consider how best to respond to the commitments outlined in their Nationally Determined Contributions and enable their economies to respond to the challenging environment resulting from Covid-19: “Ensuring a Climate Resilient Recovery after COVID-19. A guide to utilising low-carbon pathways, supply chain circularity and resilient business models to meet climate change goals while improving economic competitiveness.

### 4. ICAT – INITIATIVE ON CLIMATE ACTION TRANSPARENCY

ICAT is a multi-stakeholder partnership governed by a Donor Steering Committee (Germany, Italy, Climateworks Foundation, Children’s investment fund foundation). ICAT provides countries with tailored support and practical tools and methodologies to build the robust transparency frameworks needed for effective climate action in sync with national development priorities. ICAT works closely with its partner countries to develop policy-focused, priority-driven projects that develop the information and data frameworks and related capacity to improve the implementation, tracking, and enhancement of their NDCs and reporting. With a variety of support offers available, ICAT partner countries can choose the right mix of activities which best addresses their needs and national priorities.

### 5. PCCB TOOLKIT TO ASSESS CAPACITY-BUILDING GAPS AND NEEDS TO IMPLEMENT THE PARIS AGREEMENT

The toolkit, published in January 2022 as a response to a recommendation from a 2019 UNFCCC technical paper highlighting the need for such a document, draws upon the capacity assessment work of development agencies and international experts, and it includes case studies from several countries presenting methods to identify and address capacity needs and gaps. The hands-on examples, best practices, tools, and clear policy options presented by the toolkit seek to help officials in implementing effective nationally determined contributions (NDCs) tailored to their country’s circumstances, ultimately helping to reach the goals of the Paris Agreement.

#### Useful sources:

*Please give examples of additional useful sources relevant to this topic (e.g. webpages and portals, publications, fora, organizations working on this issue):*

<https://ndcpartnership.org/>

<https://eu4climate.eu/>

<https://www.ctc-n.org/resources/ctcn-and-tec-publication-stimulating-uptake-technologies-support-nationally-determined>

<https://www.ctc-n.org/resources/new-guidebook-ensuring-climate-resilient-recovery-after-covid-19>

<https://climateactiontransparency.org/>

<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/paris-committee-on-capacity-building-pccb/areas-of-work/capacity-building-portal/pccb-toolkit-to-assess-capacity-building-gaps-and-needs>