Submission to the Belém Mission to 1.5 – Call for Inputs

This submission addresses the global and cross-regional dynamics of climate finance design and implementation, drawing on observations from work across impact investing, partnership design, and entrepreneurship support.

Re: Question 1 – High-impact solutions and barriers to NDC/NAP implementation.

A persistent barrier to NDC and NAP implementation is not the absence of climate finance commitments, but a structural mismatch between how that finance is evaluated and allocated, and the contexts it is meant to serve.

Often, climate finance and investment frameworks are designed in one institutional or geographic context, then applied across diverse implementation environments without testing the assumptions embedded within them. In doing so, they can unintentionally privilege one set of organisational norms, reporting standards, or evidence requirements over different but equally legitimate ways of operating.

This creates an under-examined risk: well-funded national plans that underperform in practice, not because capital is lacking, but because the criteria used to design and evaluate interventions excluded the local intelligence needed to anticipate implementation barriers.

This is a structural feature of current climate finance systems, driven by funding timelines, reporting requirements, and the limited integration of local knowledge during the design phase.

The consequence is a system operating with incomplete intelligence at the point where it matters most: before capital is committed, rather than after outcomes are measured.

As countries prepare increasingly ambitious NDCs and NAPs, this design challenge becomes increasingly important: implementation depends not only on mobilising finance, but on ensuring that the assumptions governing that finance are fit for the contexts in which it is deployed.

Re: Question 2 – Strengthening international cooperation.

International cooperation on NDC and NAP implementation would be strengthened by embedding foresight-based assumption testing into the design of climate finance instruments. It would not be as an ex-post evaluation tool, but as a structural step before deployment.

In practice, this means creating space within existing cooperation mechanisms for local and community knowledge to inform eligibility criteria, risk assessments, and success metrics from the outset, particularly where climate finance is directed toward contexts whose realities differ significantly from those in which funding frameworks were originally designed.

Strengthening international cooperation therefore requires improving not only the volume of climate finance, but also the quality of the assumptions that govern how it is allocated.

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