



Strategy Meeting of the Network of Vulnerable Countries: Advancing Joint Action to Meet Urgent Challenges and Building Climate Resilience

Abu Dhabi | February 2025

Location: Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy

Global Context

Despite being among the most vulnerable and least ready to adapt to climate change, countries and communities affected by conflict and facing severe humanitarian crises continue to encounter large barriers in accessing finance for resilience building and climate adaptation. Per capita climate finance in these settings is often 5 to 80 times less than in stabler countries, and the OECD reports that only around 10% of global climate finance reaches these highly vulnerable regions. In 2020, climate finance to LDCs and SIDS – which includes many countries affected by conflict, violence, and humanitarian crises – totalled just USD 10 billion, far below estimated costs needs. Political instability, weak institutions, and insecurity further complicate efforts to channel funding to where it is most needed.

Addressing this inequity requires a collective, whole-of-system approach from governments, climate funds, and communities themselves, in partnership with humanitarian, development, peacebuilding and climate actors.

Part 1: Inaugural Meeting of the Network of Climate Vulnerable Countries affected by Conflicts or High Levels of Humanitarian Needs

February 26th 2025

On November 15th, on the sidelines of the 29th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29), representatives of countries vulnerable to the impact of climate change and affected by conflicts, and/or facing severe humanitarian needs, launched the *Network of Climate Vulnerable Countries affected by Conflicts or High Levels of Humanitarian Needs*. The Network is a country-owned and -led initiative to scale up climate finance and action in climate-vulnerable countries affected by conflicts and/or facing high levels of humanitarian needs.

Operationalizing the Network

At the Network's launch, members pledged to swiftly move to develop and operationalize its workplan. This effort will involve both technical discussions and a high-level meeting of policymakers. The COP29 Presidency is convening the Network to develop and endorse a workplan, nominate co-chairs, and discuss related initiatives including the UNFCCC



Needs-Based Financing project, the establishment of country platforms, and possible development of country plans, network advocacy approach and attracting financing, as well as agreeing on other workstreams identified by network members.

Day 1: Introduction & Discussion of Key Challenges	
08:30 – 09:00	<i>Registration & Welcome Coffee</i>
09:00 – 09:22	<p><i>Opening Remarks</i></p> <p>Welcome from the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy (AGDA), Abu Dhabi</p> <p>Welcome from Representatives of UAE MoFA and COP29 Presidency</p>
09:22 – 10:30	<p><i>Ministerial and country statements</i></p> <p>Statements on support and vision for the Network</p> <p>Ministerial representatives from Government of Yemen, Chad, Somalia, Sierra Leone, Burundi, South Sudan</p> <p>Non-ministerial representatives from Timor Leste, PNG, Mauritania, Maldives, the Gambia, Iraq</p> <p>(3-minute statements by Ministers, 2-minute statements by other representatives)</p>
10:30-11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:00-11:30	<p><i>Session 1: Network Ways of Working</i></p> <p>Reminder of the Network’s objectives and founding communique from COP29</p> <p>Introduction of the formal Network name</p>
11:30 – 12:00	<p><i>Session 2: Climate finance needs in fragile and conflict settings</i></p> <p>Ways of working, activities, and objectives for the Network (Facilitated by the co-chairs with the support of partners)</p> <p>Presentation on the financial state of play in fragile and conflict settings</p> <p>Partner panel 1: AfDB, GCF, FCDO, WFP, AF</p>



12:00-12:30	<i>Session 3: Milestones and products</i> Introduction of Network milestones (letter to COP30 presidency, statement on the occasion of the first meeting), with discussion ahead of endorsement at the end of the day.
12:30-12:45	Network Family Photo
12:45-14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14:00-15:30	<i>Session 4: Technical Discussions</i> Partner Panel 2: GEF, ICRC Ireland, IsDB National interventions on existing processes and lessons learned (interventions by Burundi and Somalia) Presentation on the Needs-Based Finance initiative of the UNFCCC
15:30-16:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>



Part 2: Implementing the Needs-based Financing Project in countries facing Conflicts and Severe Humanitarian Needs

February 26th - 27th, 2025

The [Needs-based Climate Finance \(NBF\)](#) project was established in response to the request of the Conference of the Parties (COP) that the secretariat, in collaboration with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations agencies, bilateral, regional, and other multilateral channels, explore **ways and means to assist developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities in a country-driven manner**, including their technological and capacity-building needs, and in **translating climate finance needs into action**. It focuses on implementing priority mitigation and adaptation measures identified by developing countries in alignment with their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), national adaptation plans, and other relevant policies. Since its inception in 2017, the NBF project has assisted over 100 developing countries in defining their climate needs, developing regional strategies for finance access, and translating these into specific funding projects and programmes.

In response to the political commitments in the [COP28 Declaration of Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace](#), and the [COP29 Baku Call on Climate Action for Peace, Relief, and Recovery](#) to scale up climate action in countries facing conflict and humanitarian crises, in November 2024 it was announced that the NbF would launch a phase focused on five participating countries -- Chad, South Sudan, Yemen, Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea – to help formulate strategies for these countries to secure the climate financing needed to mitigate and adapt to climate impacts.

Co-organized by the UNFCCC, g7+ Secretariat, ODI, AGDA, and the World Food Programme, this working session aims to introduce the NBF approach, facilitate a platform for discussion, and provide a space for dialogue among ministers and technical-level staff from the participating countries and key partner agencies.

08:30 – 09:00	<i>Registration & Welcome Coffee</i>
09:00 – 10:30	<i>Session 1: Plenary - Introduction to the Needs-Based Finance Project to facilitate climate finance access</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcoming remarks by ODI on behalf of all Partners• Overview of the Needs-Based Finance approach and its importance in humanitarian contexts – UNFCCC



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlight how the NBF has supported developing countries in formulating strategies that have enhanced climate financial flow - UNFCCC Q&A and discussion 	
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
11:00 – 12:30	<p><i>Session 2: Plenary - Stocktaking countries' climate finance readiness and ongoing technical work, and developing a shared roadmap for NBF</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structured presentations from South Sudan, Yemen, Chad, Timor Leste & PNG - overview of climate action priorities, needs and financing gaps that countries would like to overcome Q&A and discussion <p>(10 minutes presentation per country)</p>	
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
	Parallel Sessions	
	<p>A: Country-specific Needs-Based Finance Work-</p> <p>(South Sudan, Yemen, Chad, Timor Leste and PNG in breakout tables)</p>	<p>B: Session run by the COP29 Presidency</p> <p>Environmental Security, organized by Sara Njeri and Rebecca Nadin</p>
13:30 – 14:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing the objectives of NBF project for the country Establishing scope and phased timelines Agreement on workplan and ways of working for each country and partner agency 	



14:00 – 15:15	<p>Bilateral discussions with climate funds, MDBs, development agencies and implementing partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identifying existing work and initiatives can feed into this project and ways to do so• Discussion on the status of project pipeline with funds representatives• Discussion on the best way forward to collaborate between partners and governments.	
15:15-15:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
15:45-16:30	<p><i>Session 4: Plenary discussion: Collective advantage</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report back from countries on work plans and country presentations• Discussion on collective approaches, capacities, and value-add• Next steps	