

CLIMATE AND DEVELOPMENT MINISTERIAL 2025

SECRETARIAT UPDATE ON KEY DELIVERABLES 2024-2025

BRASÍLIA, 14 OCTOBER 2025

CALL TO ACTION FOR C&DM 2025

[The Climate and Development Ministerial \(C&DM\)](#), launched at COP26, has become a rare political space outside the formal UNFCCC processes, where the most climate-vulnerable countries have the opportunity to drive and lead on their adaptation finance priorities. It convenes ministers of climate and development to address the barriers that LDCs and SIDS face in accessing equitable, predictable, and scaled finance for adaptation.

The 2025 Ministerial takes place at a decisive moment: just weeks before COP30 in Belém, and alongside the Baku-to-Belém Roadmap, the Baku Adaptation Roadmap (BAR), and the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) indicators process. The Ministerial can send a clear political message that C&DM deliverables – the Country Platforms Toolkit, Good Adaptation Finance Practices, and Compendium of Case Studies – are not abstract exercises but practical inputs to COP30's Action Agenda and the wider finance package.

Ministers are invited to this meeting to share their concrete actions and asks to accelerate delivery on the [C&DM goals](#) agreed at COP28, turning commitments into practical outcomes for LDCs and SIDS by:

- Reaffirming political commitment to strengthen country-owned, programmatic approaches, ensuring C&DM insights (toolkit, case studies) meaningfully inform broader adaptation finance reform agendas (Goal 1).
- Underscoring the urgency to ease access by urging funds and partners to accelerate simplification and support local/direct access (Goal 2).
- Recognising the need to scale up finance from all sources that are predictable, fit-for-purpose, and capable of de-risking adaptation investments, while strengthening coordination among public, private, and philanthropic partners (Goal 3).

During interventions, speakers will be invited to reflect on the above goals, which are linked to the proposed activities outlined in this paper (from page 6), including a light-touch country platform work plan to connect COP30 and COP31, and the finalisation of a country platform toolkit and case study compendium.

Following are the Guiding questions for the Ministerial discussions, which aims to facilitate the above:

1. Based on your experiences, what are the opportunities and blockages with establishing national and/or regional mechanisms to access and scale up adaptation finance,

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including country platform approaches? How can multilateral and bilateral donors work with you to co-create solutions?

2. What political signals could this ministerial send to accelerate readiness support, streamline access to adaptation finance, and ensure equitable delivery?
3. Based on your country's experience, what immediate actions would make the greatest difference in scaling up adaptation finance from all sources — public, private, and philanthropic — ensuring it is fit-for-purpose and supported by effective de-risking measures?

Based on the discussions, the Ministerial will produce an outcomes document capturing ministerial commitments, concrete asks, and proposed actions. These would also be linked to the forward workplan on country platforms, which will be shaped in the run-up to COP30 and beyond.

This paper sets out the technical work the C&DM has undertaken over the past year, which contributes to these outcomes, alongside work led by the C&DM Goal champion countries. By aligning technical workstreams with political milestones, C&DM can help ensure that COP30 delivers a decisive package – moving to country-led, programmatic delivery at speed and scale, with a clear evidence base on improving access.

GOAL UPDATES:

GOAL 1: PROGRAMMATIC APPROACHES (CHAMPIONED BY VANUATU, IRELAND, DENMARK AND UGANDA)

Evidence and Lessons

The [Realities of Country Platforms \(CPs\)](#) paper (April 2025) highlighted how CPs can help overcome fragmented, donor-driven, project-based finance by moving towards nationally owned, programmatic investment frameworks. However, challenges in LDCs and SIDS are stark:

- Adaptation is marginalised – donor and MDB pipelines continue to prioritise mitigation/energy transitions, leaving resilience underfunded. Country platforms need to adopt a more balanced approach to climate and development goals, ensuring that adaptation, the role of nature, and the protection and resilience of natural resources are fully integrated alongside responses to climate shocks.
- Rigid and overlapping access systems – safeguards, fiduciary standards, and reporting requirements create transaction burdens. Individual donors, including philanthropies, MDBs, and ministries, often operate with different agendas, risk frameworks, and reporting requirements. Platforms must go beyond mere collaboration to ensure alignment on project visibility, bankable projects, and deliverables, supported by clear incentives for results and timely disbursement.

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- Insufficient preparation funding – ‘bankable pipeline’ rhetoric persists, but without upfront resources for feasibility, technical assistance, and design.
- Weak inclusivity – many platforms remain elite-led, with local actors, women, and Indigenous peoples excluded from decision-making.

Ten practical lessons were distilled, including anchoring CPs in finance/planning ministries, embedding adaptation/LLA from the outset, simplifying and harmonising procedures, funding preparation facilities, bringing in NDBs early, adopting whole-of-society approaches, and integrating MEL systems.

Sevilla Workshop Outcomes

The Sevilla Technical Workshop on Country Platforms (June 2025) deepened these insights, emphasising that CPs should be viewed as a learning journey, rather than a prescriptive template.

Participants called for:

- Multi-level political ownership – platforms must be anchored in executive offices, parliaments, and subnational governments to survive political cycles.
- Platforms also require the right political, legal, and fiscal authority: while a Ministry of Finance might convene the platform, aligning across ministries with mitigation, adaptation, and development mandates can be challenging.
- Innovative finance – de-risking tools, concessional envelopes, and debt-sensitive instruments to make adaptation investable.
- South–South–North knowledge exchange – embedding structured peer learning, including sharing failures, and real-time data platforms.
- Toolkit development – a practical guide to help both countries and development partners design CPs that reflect LDC/SIDS realities.

Current Deliverables

- Baku-to-Belém Roadmap to 1.3T: [C&DM’s submission](#) identified five strategies to position CPs as an effective vehicle to scale up finance for adaptation in vulnerable contexts – country-led governance, early-stage preparation, harmonised procedures, inclusive participation, and peer learning.
- Country Platforms Action Toolkit: A modular, adaptive toolkit (launch early 2026) with five building blocks: diagnostics/readiness, governance/inclusion, financing architecture, pipeline planning, and MEL/learning. It includes a readiness audit, stakeholder mapping, financing canvases, and case studies from Vanuatu, Rwanda, Madagascar, Colombia, LIFE-AR, and V20 CPPs.
- Brain Trust (informal technical experts group to C&DM) validation: planned for Dec 2025 to refine framing, sequencing, and interactivity.

GOAL 2: EASING ACCESS (CHAMPIONED BY THE UK)

Evidence and Lessons

Access remains the most significant barrier for LDCs and SIDS. Despite commitments, finance flows are often delayed due to fragmented procedures, lengthy approval times, and burdensome reporting requirements.

Findings from the [Good Adaptation Finance Practices](#) review highlight that:

- Simplification and proportionality are essential: requirements must match country capacities and contexts.
- Direct and local access: Adaptation Fund's Enhanced Direct Access and LLA models prove that devolved finance gets resources to communities faster. Evidence from programmes such as [LIFE-AR](#) shows that supporting local entities enhances efficiency, accountability, and the uptake of adaptation measures at the community level.
- Institutional strengthening: early investments in national fiduciary systems and budget tagging reduce long-term costs.

T20 policy brief, titled ['From Pledges to Pathways: Scaling Equitable Adaptation Finance for the Most Vulnerable'](#)

- Draws on evidence and lessons from the above [Good Adaptation Finance Practices](#) to set out practical recommendations for G20 countries to scale finance for adaptation.
- It emphasises that strengthening national delivery systems for locally led action enables national, subnational and community actors to shape and implement adaptation priorities, while improving equity in access to finance.
- It also reiterates that simplifying and streamlining access requirements is critical to reducing the administrative burden on already capacity-constrained vulnerable countries.

Centre on Access to Climate Finance:

- Taskforce on Access to Climate Finance [Annual Report 2024](#) – This report captures the lessons and progress made by seven pioneer countries (Bangladesh, Fiji, Jamaica, Mauritius, Rwanda, Somalia, and Uganda) in adopting and implementing innovative approaches to improve access to climate finance. It provides insights into the challenges and successes of aligning national priorities with international funding mechanisms.
- A [Practical Guide](#) to Understanding and Establishing Climate Finance Units: The Policy Brief draws from experiences in Taskforce and NDC Partnership member countries, providing actionable insights for the development and effective implementation of CFUs to improve the access and management of climate finance flows and ensure its alignment with national goals. The online [webinar](#) also brings together institutional experts and government representatives to discuss their experience, tools, and lessons learned for the establishment and effective implementation of CFUs.

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- Improved Access to Multilateral Climate Funds [Peer to Peer Event](#) during the 2025 Bonn Climate Change Conference (SB62) in Germany. The event brought together government officials and experts from the Adaptation Fund (AF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to explore ways to improve access to multilateral climate funds, through both country-level actions and reforms to the climate finance architecture.

Current Deliverables

- Compendium of Case Studies (Series Two): 4–5 new case studies by end-2025, focused on Goals 2 and 3. Case studies under consideration that are specifically linked to this Goal:
 - The EDA/LLA Windows of the Adaptation Fund is a promising avenue through which finance can flow directly to the local level and ease access.
 - Tanzania Water Infrastructure Green Bond, which provides a faster route to finance through domestic utility and capital markets.
 - Agriculture and Climate Risk Enterprise (ACRE), which helps make adaptation finance accessible to smallholders by bundling insurance with inputs and using mobile payments to reduce barriers and transaction costs.
- Recommendations to COP30: harmonise and simplify access across funds; scale investment in national systems; embed proportionality and expand direct access modalities.
- Centre on Access to Climate Finance specific deliverables:
 - Technical report Measuring Access Components of the New Collective Quantified Goal. This report is intended to inform the Committee’s mandate in measuring collective progress toward the NCQG, by mapping data and methodologies and recommending approaches and metrics to consider measuring access-related components, and to contribute to the development of robust, evidence-based approaches for tracking the effectiveness of climate finance delivery. The final recommendations will be completed by June 2026 and presented to the Standing Committee on Finance at its 40th meeting.

GOAL 3: SCALING ADAPTATION FINANCE (CHAMPIONED BY VANUATU, UGANDA AND ADAPTATION FUND)

Evidence and Lessons

Current flows fall far short, with less than a third of climate finance allocated to adaptation, and only a fraction reaching LDCs and SIDS. Even when funds are committed, disbursement lags behind; country platforms often track both committed and disbursed finance, highlighting the gap between pledges from the Global North and money actually reaching vulnerable countries within expected timeframes. Scaling requires both volume and architecture: predictable, long-term flows, catalytic use of concessional finance, and private sector mobilisation.

Findings from the [Good Adaptation Finance Practices](#) review highlight that:

- Instruments that de-risk private investment and enable scalable public–private partnerships are particularly effective in sectors such as agriculture, water and infrastructure.
- Innovative financing vehicles are already demonstrating impact. (1) The Acumen Resilient Agriculture Fund (ARAF) provides patient debt and equity to agribusinesses that build smallholder resilience in Africa, and (2) Rwanda’s Ireme Invest Facility combines a project preparation fund and a credit facility to accelerate green investments.
- The T20 policy brief [‘From Pledges to Pathways: Scaling Equitable Adaptation Finance for the Most Vulnerable’](#) builds on these insights. It recommends that G20 countries promote public–private pilot programmes, facilitate knowledge exchange, and support the creation of regional investment platforms. It also underscores that private finance must complement, rather than replace, public and grant-based adaptation funding, especially for high-risk or non-revenue-generating initiatives.

Current Deliverables

- Compendium of Case Studies (Series Two): 4–5 new case studies by end-2025, focused on Goals 2 and 3. Case studies under consideration that is specifically linked to this Goal:
 - Barbados’ debt-for-climate swaps, which link debt restructuring to fiscal space for adaptation.
 - Tanzania’s green bonds, which mobilise domestic private capital for resilient water infrastructure.
 - Adaptation Fund innovations that expand direct access and test new resource mobilisation approaches.

CROSS-CUTTING LINKAGES TO COP30 AND BEYOND

- C&DM aims to ensure strategic alignment and synergy with the Activation Group on Finance (AG21). We hope insights emerging from the C&DM’s technical deliverables can inform and complement AG21’s Adaptation Finance Acceleration Plan by highlighting grounded lessons from LDCs and SIDS on programmatic approaches, access reform, and scaling mechanisms.
- Building on the Ministerial discussions and the Sevilla Workshop on Country Platforms, C&DM partners and champions are exploring the development of a Country Platforms Work Plan — a light-touch, forward-looking roadmap to consolidate lessons and set shared directions across LDCs and SIDS. Rather than creating new structures, the work plan would:
 - Facilitates peer exchange and South–South coordination, match-making countries on implementing NDCs, NAPs and investment frameworks.

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- Leverages existing spaces (C&DM, V20, Coalition of Finance Ministers) to align actions and reinforce country-led, programmatic delivery.
- Sets concrete post-Ministerial steps, showcasing progress at COP30 (e.g., Pacific Pavilion or joint V20–C&DM moments) and bridging into COP31.
- CPs and MEL frameworks can support linkages between NAPs, NDCs, AdComs, and budget tagging.

FORWARD WORK PLAN 2025-2026

Work Area	Context	Action
Country Platforms Work Plan (2025–2026)	Building on the Ministerial discussions, Sevilla Workshop and related discussions by existing initiatives and partners, develop a light-touch, forward-looking work plan to consolidate lessons, promote collaboration and guide next steps on country platforms based on LDCs and SIDS priorities.	Co-develop a joint Work Plan to launch at COP30 with existing initiatives and partners (e.g. V20, CFCMA, AOSIS, LDC Group) post-Ministerial; identify peer-learning and implementation actions to showcase at COP30 (Pacific Pavilion or V20–C&DM events) and sustain momentum towards COP31.
Country Platforms Toolkit finalisation and roll-out	C&DM is developing a Country Platforms Action Toolkit—a practitioner-focused guide for LDCs and SIDS to assess, design, and scale inclusive, resilient country platforms. It draws on emerging platform examples and centres their priorities.	Brain Trust validation (Dec 2025); full digital toolkit launch in early 2026 with modular tools and case libraries.
Compendium of case studies on good adaptation finance practices (Series II)	Building on last year’s evidence review. A second iteration will produce 4–5 case studies focused on Goals 2 (easing access) and 3 (scaling finance). Strong engagement and positive feedback from members, especially SIDS and LDCs, drives this continuation and the need for peer learning	4–5 deep-dive case studies on access reform and scaling mechanisms by end-2025; video/documentary outputs in 2026 to support outreach.

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	and scaling effective approaches.	
C&DM Strategic Review	C&DM is in its 5th year and undergoing a strategic review to ensure continued relevance, effectiveness, and alignment with the priorities of climate-vulnerable countries. The review team includes experts from an SIDS, an LDC, and a developed country.	After the review (Oct/Nov 2025), implement recommendations: increase LDC/SIDS leadership in governance, clarify Secretariat mandate, ensure transparency in Brain Trust engagement, and enhance communication and advocacy.
Strategic Engagement	Ongoing external engagement to ensure uptake and influence of the outputs.	Transmit deliverables to the COP30 Presidency and Activation Group 21 for synergy with the Adaptation Finance Acceleration Plan; use Ministerial outcomes to inform the Baku-to-Belém Roadmap and BAR/GGA linkages; deepen collaboration with V20, AOSIS, LDC Group, Coalition of Finance Ministers, and UNFCCC finance workstreams. Maintain visibility through targeted dialogues and events from COP30 to COP31.