

Technical Input Paper to the Climate and Development Ministerial 2025 (14 October 2025, Pre-COP, Brasilia): the work of the Champions Group on Adaptation Finance

As a coalition of contributor countries, the Champions Group on Adaptation Finance aims to improve the overall delivery of climate finance dedicated to adaptation and resilience particularly for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island States (SIDS).

As part of our efforts to collectively deliver on the New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance (NCQG), we will continue to advocate for the increased quality and accessibility of adaptation finance in line with the ambition articulated in the goal. Strengthening partnerships between LDCs, SIDS and those providing climate finance is key to this, as is recognising the particular needs of LDCs and SIDS in discussions of quantity, quality, and accessibility of adaptation financing. On the occasion of the fifth Climate and Development Ministerial (C&DM), and with many of its members also participating in the C&DM, the Champions Group reaffirms its support for the C&DM and its efforts to further global resilience, reinforce partnerships and centre the needs of LDCs and SIDS.

Increased climate impacts are being felt now. The human, social and economic [costs](#)¹ are impossible to ignore. Boosting adaptation and resilience is lifesaving, and as a key pillar of the Paris Agreement it is integral to global and national economic stability and security. Beyond the positive human impact, the [economic argument](#)² for investing in adaptation is compelling: every \$1 invested in adaptation can yield over \$10 in economic benefits over ten years. However, we know that the countries most vulnerable to climate impacts are often those with the most limited capacity to adapt, and that adaptation is significantly underfunded.

Since its inception at COP26 in Glasgow in 2021, the Champions Group on Adaptation Finance has worked to maintain [political attention](#)³ on the urgent need for scaled-up adaptation finance and raise internal ambition within contributor governments and multilateral development banks (MDBs); develop the evidence base on adaptation finance, for example looking at [good practice in adaptation financing](#)⁴ from both contributor and recipient perspectives; increase engagement with LDC and SIDS⁵ representatives; and create an informal channel to help contributors to meaningfully respond.

As we look to COP30, we believe it is vital to continue to elevate the political importance of adaptation and to accelerate real world progress, including through the COP30 Action Agenda as well as broader reform of the international financial architecture. We recognise that countries must work together to strengthen global adaptation and that we must support developing countries' efforts, particularly LDCs and SIDS, given their particular vulnerability and the challenges they face. This is consistent with the NCQG, which calls for a balance between adaptation and mitigation in its implementation and a focus on the needs of the most vulnerable, as well as with the Paris Agreement as a whole.

¹ [Why Investing in Climate Action Makes Economic Sense | BCG](#)

² [Strengthening the Investment Case for Climate Adaptation: A Triple Dividend Approach | World Resources Institute](#)

³ [Champions group renews commitment to climate adaptation needs | International Institute for Environment and Development](#)

⁴ [Learning from adaptation financing that is working for LDCs and SIDS | International Institute for Environment and Development](#)

⁵ [SIDS and LDCs Dialogue on Good Adaptation Finance - LIFE-AR](#)

This is why we have worked to scale our delivery of bilateral adaptation finance, and advocated for a greater focus on adaptation needs in MDB financing [resulting⁶](#) in a 6.5% increase between 2023-2024 in adaptation finance for low and middle-income countries in 2024 and [a commitment⁷](#) to increase adaptation finance from MDBs to \$42bn p.a. by 2030. Whilst the data on the Glasgow Climate Pact's urging to double adaptation finance from 2019 levels by 2025 will not be available until 2028, the Champions Group reaffirms the urgent need for scaled-up, accessible adaptation finance for developing countries, in line with Goal 3 of the C&DM, and recognises the vital role of public finance as part of the broader landscape of financial flows.

We recognise that the replenishment of finance mechanisms is key, given their important role in directing high quality finance to where it's needed most. There is a continued need to provide grant-based and highly concessional financing in particular for adaptation finance in LDCs and SIDS, to leverage affordable capital and to maximise the effectiveness of international support in unlocking the potential of private finance. The C&DM Ministerial and COP30 are an opportunity to discuss how best we do this and for all actors of the climate finance landscape – countries, MDBs, multilateral climate funds, and the private sector – to work together to enhance support for adaptation efforts, while maintaining a focus on LDCs and SIDS.

The quality and accessibility of adaptation finance, as set out in Goal 2 of the C&DM, is vital for resources to reach vulnerable communities and allow them to address their adaptation needs. This was clearly recognised in the NCQG decision from COP29, and we are committed to taking forward concrete actions both bilaterally and multilaterally to ease access to climate finance, particularly for the most vulnerable. For example, the work of the [Center for Access to Climate Finance⁸](#) and the [Climate Finance Access Network⁹](#) have key roles to play in measuring and enhancing access.

As a Champions Group, we recognise the need to ensure that adaptation finance is responding to local needs and reaching those who need it most. National institutional coordination structures such as country platforms, that can align adaptation finance with National Adaptation Plans and strategies for sustainable economic development, are a promising lever to accelerate climate action and support locally-led approaches. We encourage all providers of climate finance to coordinate and build upon countries' own plans, work through national systems, and utilise direct access modalities as appropriate to better reflect country priorities in adaptation planning. We welcome the work of the C&DM on programmatic approaches (C&DM Goal 1) and look forward to the launch of the Country Platform Action Toolkit.

The voices and needs of the most vulnerable countries and regions must be at the core of efforts to strengthen global adaptation. We are committed to doing our part to help achieve this. We look forward to working with LDCs and SIDS at the C&DM Ministerial and to having further engagement to ensure we can meaningfully advance our shared priorities on prioritising high quality and accessible adaptation finance.

The Netherlands and Ireland (Co-Chairs) on behalf of the Champions Group on Adaptation Finance

⁶ [MDB climate finance 2024 - Key figures](#)

⁷ [Joint-MDB-Statement-for-COP29.pdf](#)

⁸ <https://ndcpartnership.org/climate-finance/center-access-climate-finance>

⁹ <https://cfanadvisors.org/>