

**The Sixth Global Conference on
Strengthening Synergies between the Paris Agreement
and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

Unleashing synergies towards an equitable, climate-resilient and sustainable future

CONCEPT NOTE

(Draft as of 26 May)

**Parallel Thematic Session 2.3 – Advancing the SDGs in Coastal Cities:
Integrated Approaches to Climate Resilience and Sustainable Development**

Co-organized by



Climate &
Development
Ministerial

Date: Wednesday, 28 May 2025

Time: 10:30 – 12:00

Location: UN City, Auditorium 3

Context

As highlighted in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the upcoming Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4), achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and strengthening adaptation finance requires innovative, country-driven solutions. The NDC Synthesis Report (2024) and the Global Stocktake (GST) at COP29 further underscored the widening adaptation finance gap, emphasizing the urgent need for country-owned, programmatic financing approaches. These approaches should integrate multiple financial sources—including public, private, philanthropic, and multilateral development banks (MDBs)—into cohesive national investment strategies. Furthermore, the 5th Finance in Common Summit (FICS) placed significant focus on discussions around reforming the international financial architecture, particularly to ensure it is fit for purpose and effectively serves climate-vulnerable countries. This is important to align financial flows with the Paris Agreement on climate change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Indeed, investments and funding models must align climate finance with SDG achievement to bridge the gap between financial requirements and on-the-ground implementation.

Country platforms have gained momentum in recent years as a mechanism to streamline and maximize financial support and decision-making for national sustainable development, including facilitating the achievement of climate and nature goals. While country platforms are a relatively new concept in climate finance, they have been widely used in development finance, infrastructure investment, and sectoral economic reforms. Their core objective is to move away from fragmented, short-term, project-based approaches and instead promote long-term, programmatic, and nationally driven investment strategies. For LDCs and SIDS, where climate risks are acute and adaptation costs are high, adaptation-

focussed country platforms that reflect national circumstance are essential. These platforms can enhance access to finance, coordinate multiple funding streams, and build long-term resilience by linking National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) with broader economic transformation strategies.

However, despite their potential, these platforms are largely donor-driven, often sidelining LDCs, SIDS, and local voices and priorities. Furthermore, many emerging platforms, focus on mitigation, with little attention to adaptation—despite its critical importance for the most climate-vulnerable countries.

On behalf of the Climate and Development Ministerial (More in [Attachment A](#))—a process initiated at COP26 to strengthen collaboration between climate and development ministers in scaling up adaptation finance for the most climate-vulnerable countries, with a key focus on advancing programmatic financing approaches that enhance country ownership—Denmark, Ireland, Vanuatu, and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) will co-lead this session. The discussion will focus on enhancing national ownership of country platforms, amplifying local voices, and ensuring that such platforms effectively scale up adaptation finance for the most vulnerable nations. LDCs and SIDS will be at the centre of the debate, focusing on how country platforms can be made more inclusive and effective in scaling up adaptation finance for their countries

Insights from this session will inform a technical workshop at FfD4 and contribute to a country platforms toolkit launching later this year.

Guiding Objectives

- Share evidence and lessons from emerging adaptation-focused country platforms in SIDS and LDCs to understand what it looks like on the ground.
- Identify key barriers to the effective functioning of country platforms in SIDS and LDCs.
- Explore how different financiers—including public, private, and philanthropic actors—can address these barriers and support the development of inclusive and effective country platforms.

Agenda

10:30 – 10:35	Welcome and Overview of the Agenda by Facilitator	Dr. Tom Mitchell , Executive Director of International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
10:35 – 10:40	Keynote	H.E Mr. Ralph Regenvanu , Minister for Climate Change, Energy, Meteorology, Geohazards, Environment, and Disaster Management, Vanuatu
10:40 – 10:50	Presentation of the Briefing Paper <i>The Realities of Country Platforms for LDCs and SIDS: Ten Key Lessons</i>	Ms. Anaa Hassan , Researcher, Climate Finance, IIED

10:50 – **Facilitated Roundtable Discussion**
11:35

*2-3 interventions per each speaker
3 min per intervention*

Mr. Christopher Bartlett, Special Climate
Adviser, Vanuatu

Ms. Iva Detelinova, Senior Advisor, Climate
Adaptation and Resilience, African Climate
Foundation

Mr. Sam Mugume Koojo, Assistant
Commissioner, Ministry of Finance, Planning
and Economic Development, Uganda

Ms. Sung-Ah Kyun, Associate Director,
Head of Policy, Research and Partnership
team, European Bank for Reconstruction and
Development

Ms. Florence Shako, Founder and Executive
Director, Centre for Education Policy and
Climate Justice, Kenya

11:35 – **Q&A and Roundtable Discussion**
11:55

Open to all participants.

11:55 – **Closing Remarks**
12:00

Mr. Ole Thonke, Climate Ambassador and
Under-Secretary for Development Policy,
Denmark

Rapporteur (to briefly summarize takeaways from this session in the Conference Closing)

Mr. Dreli Solomon, First Secretary, Vanuatu Embassy in Brussels

Supplementary Information

Suggested Reading/ Input

A discussion paper, published recently by the C&DM titled '*The Realities of Country Platforms for LDCs and SIDS: Ten key lessons*' will provide insights and lessons to shape the debate.

You can access this publication here: <https://www.iied.org/22630g>

Background on Climate and Development Ministerial

The Climate and Development Ministerial (C&DM) was initiated in 2021 to unite and lend support to climate and development ministers to address the priorities of climate vulnerable countries. The first ministerial was hosted virtually by the UK on March 31st 2021 and focussed on access to climate finance, responding to the impacts of climate change, the quantity, quality, and composition of climate finance, and fiscal space and debt sustainability.

In 2022, the C&DM hosted pivotal discussions around shifting finance to investing behind national platforms, continued reform of the global financial architecture and changing the scale and sources of finance available. This culminated in a C&DM [forward plan](#).



In 2023 the C&DM process culminated in the launch of a [Vision statement](#) on addressing access and delivery of adaptation finance , associated priority actions, and a [Coalition of Ambition on Adaptation Finance](#) at COP28. At this launch, several participating countries and institutions nominated themselves to co-champion one or more of the three goals outlined in the Vision statement (Goal 1: Enhancing country-owned programmatic financing; Goal 2: Easing access to adaptation finance and Goal 3: Scaling finance from all sources) and steward delivery on proposed Priority Actions.

In 2024, the C&DM held a [Technical Workshop in Wilton Park](#) in June, which brought together a range of policy makers and technical experts to progress the goals agreed in 2023. This event was instrumental in identifying the existing challenges in accelerating progress in each of the three focus areas/goals and identify action points for each goal. The Evidence Review on Good Adaptation Finance Practices to support SIDS and LDCs is another key outcome of the C&DM process for 2024, which was launched at the 4th C&DM Ministerial at Pre-COP in Baku, Azerbaijan. At COP29, C&DM launched an adaptation finance mapper, a real-time tracker which has mapped over 200+ adaptation initiatives and networks that can be leveraged for more effective collaboration and partnerships.

The Climate and Development Ministerial is facilitated by climate finance experts from [E3G](#), [SouthSouthNorth \(SSN\)](#) and the International Institute for Environment and Development.

Read more on the C&DM here: [2023 Climate and Development Ministerial: Coalition of Ambition on Adaptation Finance - E3G](#) and reflections on the process here: <https://www.iied.org/building-political-ambition-for-adaptation-cop28-beyond> and here <https://www.iied.org/climate-development-ministerial-bridging-trust-accelerating-action-for-climate-vulnerable-nations>

Braintrust

The Braintrust is a voluntary group of technical experts and stakeholders dedicated to enhancing the C&DM process. The Braintrust guides the strategic direction of the C&DM process. This includes informing, co-designing, contributing to, and reviewing technical outputs--ensuring alignment with on-the-ground realities and existing best practices. Through their expertise and dedication, the Braintrust significantly contributes to the success of the C&DM.

To date, the Braintrust has provided expert guidance in the C&DM process by attending various solutions-focussed technical meetings. In 2023, these meetings were convened to co-design actions to reform the architecture of adaptation finance and inform the C&D Vision statement and the associated Priority Actions.



Learn more about the Conference
<https://www.un.org/en/climate-sdgs-conference-2025>

For further information, please contact:
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