

Multi-level Governance and the NDCs

Accelerating subnational implementation & raising national ambitions

With the objective to support leadership, facilitate learning and launch pilot actions in early mover countries, the SNI-WG is requesting expressions of interest to convene “MLG Climate Action Teams” for the subnational integration of the country's NDC and long term LEDS.

Sub-national Integration Working Group:

- The LEDS Global Partnership (LEDS GP) was launched in 2011 and has grown to include the active participation of more than 220 member institutions, of which 160 are governmental institutions.
- Within the various initiatives of the LEDS GP, the thematic Working Group on Subnational Integration was created in 2013 to facilitate learning and support intersectoral cooperation and the integration of climate policies and actions between national and subnational governments (vertically and horizontally), as well as with the private sector and civil society.¹

Overview of Technical Assistance Opportunity:

- Based on a review of country submissions, four countries will be selected to partner from the Asia and Latin America Caribbean LEDS regions. More important than current status of implementation activity, is the level of ambition and commitment to transformation.
- The technical assistance is limited to a six month period and the particular target area will be defined in collaboration with each country's “MLG Climate Action Team.”
- The technical assistance is flexible; ranging from analysis to facilitation –for example, realizing domestic workshops in each country that focus on capacity building and technical training.
- The opportunity is purposefully broad and is intended to foster collaboration, MRV and joint LEDS actions within the country.
- The outcome will be improved MLG and intersectoral collaboration towards achieving the NDC and long term LEDS.

MLG Climate Policy & Action Ecosystem

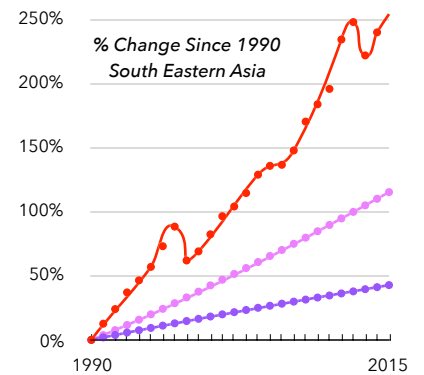
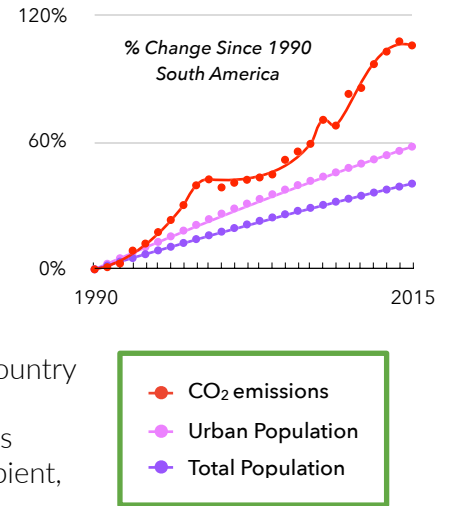
- Strategic planning/ agenda setting
- Political leadership
- Stakeholder support
- Policy formulation/ approval
 - Identifying & bridging policy gaps
- Implementation
 - Identifying & addressing barriers
 - Capacity building
 - Financing
- Monitoring & evaluation
- Dissemination, sharing

Setting the Stage:

- Effective multi-level governance (MLG) and intersectoral collaboration are key components of successful low emission, climate-resilient development strategies. Successful public investment requires co-ordination between national and subnational governments.
- Today, cities and towns account for an estimated 75-80% of global energy use and associated CO₂ emissions. If current trends in urban expansion continue, urban energy use may increase more than threefold by 2050; from 240 EJ to 730 EJ.

¹ more info: <http://ledsgp.org/working-groups/subnational-integration-of-leds>

- Since 1990, the majority of countries have been rapidly urbanizing without delivering emission reductions. In fact, in many regions CO₂ emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels and cement production are rising faster than the rate of urban population growth ([data link](#)).² Regionally, this trend is especially divergent in South Eastern Asia, South America, and Middle Africa, among others. This has important implications for shifting governance dynamics.
- Despite land use and urbanization being key factors shaping countries' abilities to reduce GHG emissions, the NDCs from the majority of developing countries do not yet represent a vision of the country that integrates national and local policies and planning.
- Although multilevel governance and intersectoral collaboration towards domestic implementation of the NDCs and long term LEDS is still incipient, there are synergies and additional co-benefits being achieved by improving the coordination and vertical integration of data, actions, policies, investments, and monitoring across multiple levels of governance. Some important examples of progress include: the creation of inter-ministerial climate cabinets; subnational GHG inventories informing local climate action plans; national councils comprised of multiple levels of government as well as civil society; cities providing important leadership and regional input to national policy; inter-municipal cooperation to reduce fragmentation; regional climate change science and strategic action committees; and national networks of municipalities on climate change.



Useful Definitions:

Governance - processes of interaction and decision-making among the social actors involved in a collective problem that lead to the creation, reinforcement, or reproduction of social norms and institutions." [Problem, Actors, Norms, Nodal points/interaction points, Processes] (Hufty, M. 2011)

Multi-level governance (MLG) - the synergistic "interplay" between institutions, levels of government and civil society organizations that shape how policies and actions are defined and implemented. This can involve vertical and/or horizontal interactions and take numerous forms— e.g. driven by top-down, bottom-up, or hybrid institutional arrangements.

Intersectoral cooperation - the premise that state, municipal, markets and civil society sectors each possess distinct assets that can be combined in a productive manner to solve complex problems. (Kalegaonkar, A. 2000)

Fragmentation - disconnected, poly-centric structures of subnational governance, for example between abutting municipalities in a metropolitan area. Fragmentation can create political and institutional barriers, information asymmetry, inefficiencies in service provision, spillover effects across jurisdictional boundaries, as well as severe income and service level inequalities.

More information:
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² <http://ledsgp-data.netlify.com>