



CITIES & REGIONS
IN THE UNFCCC PROCESS

Bloomberg
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DELIVERING CHAMP-ALIGNED NDC 3.0

Guidance for Endorsers

INTRODUCTION

In December 2023, the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) for Climate Action was launched by the COP28 Presidency in partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies. Since then, 72 Parties to the UNFCCC have endorsed CHAMP, pledging to enhance cooperation with subnational governments (e.g. cities, towns, provinces, states, regions) in the planning, financing, implementing, and monitoring of climate plans and strategies, and to better integrate subnational mitigation and adaptation actions within the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs 3.0).

CHAMP seeks to unlock further emissions reductions and resilience through concerted action across all levels of government, ensuring that the next round of national pledges reflect greater ambition and inclusivity. This brief provides high-level guidance for delivering enhanced NDCs incorporating strong subnational content and robust consultation with subnational governments - in line with the principles of the CHAMP Pledge.

WHAT IS IN THE CHAMP PLEDGE?

The CHAMP Pledge identified the following areas as priorities to enhance cooperation with subnational governments in the planning, financing, implementation, and monitoring of NDCs (in addition to other national planning and target-setting tools). The full CHAMP Pledge can be found [here](#).

CONSULT

subnational governments in the design of climate commitments and strategies

COLLABORATE

with subnational governments in the implementation of climate commitments and strategies

NDC 2025

Create processes to enable contributions from subnational governments in the next NDC

NDC INVESTMENT

Include subnational funding priorities in NDC investment plans and help them secure resources from public and private institutions

VOLUNTARY REVIEW

Conduct in-country review of the implementation of CHAMP

HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL DIALOGUE

Convening of endorsers to share CHAMP good practices and lessons learned at an annual High Level Political Dialogue

WHAT DOES A CHAMP-ALIGNED NDC LOOK LIKE?

UNFCCC Executive Secretary Simon Stiell has outlined his vision for the third generation of NDCs (3.0) to incorporate investment plans that are “implementable, unlock finance, kick-start transformative developments, and ensure that no-one is being left behind.”¹ The UNFCCC has requested these enhanced NDCs be submitted by countries by February 2025, well ahead of COP30.

In addition, recommendations from the Co-Chairs of the UNFCCC-mandated Consultation on Net Zero Recognition and Accountability Framework highlighted the need for a “transparency pipeline” connecting non-state actor action to NDCs and stated that multilevel partnerships can play a key role in enhancing climate ambition, citing CHAMP as a pioneering initiative central to these efforts.²

CHAMP-aligned NDCs should embody this next generation of climate plans and strive to include the following recommendations.

Undertake Consultation

- The NDC should incorporate outcomes of consultations between national and subnational governments (e.g. through a dedicated inter-governmental committee, a dedicated focal point, or workshops).
- Actions or measures identified in the NDC that would need to be delivered at the subnational level should be verified and co-designed with the relevant subnational stakeholders.
- National governments should engage with subnational governments and a range of stakeholders including marginalized communities and affected workers to embed considerations relating to social and economic justice into the NDC.

Explicitly Include Urban Content

- The NDC should either include clear dedicated sections on actions, challenges and opportunities at the subnational level, co-designed through consultation with subnational governments, or include urban priorities integrated throughout the NDC’s sectoral priorities.

Use Relevant Data and Evidence

- The NDC should integrate subnational emissions inventories, risk assessments, and associated targets to develop, track, and measure NDC implementation progress.
- National governments should benchmark the level of urban content in their NDCs against findings of the latest UN-Habitat, UNDP, and *University of Southern Denmark (SDU)* analysis (see report [here](#)). Governments can also connect with networks active in the Race to Zero and Race to Resilience as well as with the wider LGMA constituency to identify opportunities to enhance urban content through the NDC 3.0 process.

Link to Financial Resources

- The NDC should include a clear plan for financing and implementing subnational climate action identified in the NDCs (e.g. defining a climate investment plan with subnational governments, identifying a pipeline of investable projects at the subnational level, or convening subnational governments and finance partners in country-level coordination efforts to increase the financing and implementation of subnational climate action, such as a National Accelerator for Local Climate Finance).

Identify Governance Arrangements

- The NDC should describe the governance arrangements in place to support long-term multilevel coordination and collaboration to facilitate its implementation, and that of its other related national plans and frameworks.

National governments wishing to request support or guidance on implementing their commitment can direct these requests through the NDC Partnership. The NDC Partnership is a strategic partner in delivering CHAMP and serves to strengthen multilevel governance by aligning national government requests for support with available support from CHAMP partners. CHAMP endorsers who are not yet members of the NDC Partnership are encouraged to join. Please reach out to supportunit@ndcpartnership.org for further information on membership and accessing NDC Partnership support.

¹ [Building Support for More Ambitious National Climate Action Plans](#) – UNFCCC, 2024.

² [RAF RECOMMENDATIONS - Letter to Simon Stiell from the independent Co-chairs of the Recognition and Accountability Framework Consultation, Sarah Bloom Raskin and Bing Leng](#) – UNFCCC, 2024.