

PROJECT PROPOSAL: Climate Promise: From Pledge to Impact Empowered Youth for NDC Implementation

Context and rationale

This proposal is designed to be implemented as part of UNDP's Climate Promise, a portfolio initiative that encompasses UNDP's support to countries on implementing the Paris Agreement, with a focus on NDC and LTS processes. Specifically, through the Climate Promise, UNDP is supporting countries on NDC enhancement, development of Long-term Strategies, as well as broader NDC implementation and alignment with long-term net-zero and climate-resilient pathways.

UNDP has a strong track-record of strengthening meaningful youth engagement in development processes, including in the NDC-enhancement process through the Climate Promise. As a result of youth engagement, 97% of the NDCs submitted with Climate Promise support include youth considerations. To guide ongoing and future work, UNDP launched the publication [Aiming Higher: Meaningful Youth Engagement for Climate Action](#) in 2022, and is expanding its broader portfolio of global, regional and country initiatives that support climate and youth work (e.g. [UNDP Youth Global programme for Sustainable Development and Peace](#), [Youth4Climate](#), [Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform in Asia Pacific](#), [Youth CO:Lab in Asia](#), [Regional Youth Project in the Arab region](#), and [Youth Connekt in Africa](#), among others). The engagement and empowerment of young people in the implementation of enhanced NDCs is even more crucial to ensure young people are part of the solution and to harness their potential and innovative thinking, while leaving no-one behind.

Several priorities have been identified by young people through various UNDP engagements, including the Climate Promise, that are pivotal to strengthening youth engagement in NDC implementation. The additional contribution from the Government of Belgium to support these priorities focuses on delivering country-level activities to drive youth engagement in NDC implementation in selected Climate Promise countries. Results will be monitored in line with the existing Climate Promise portfolio Results Framework (see Appendix 2).

Project description

The **objective** of the project is to support country-level activities to further engage and empower youth in NDC implementation processes. This will be supported by the Climate Promise global infrastructure, to enhance visibility, monitoring and knowledge dissemination.

As part of the Climate Promise portfolio, the contribution will complement other ongoing work in-country to address the portfolio's overall outcomes and outputs. Specifically, this support will directly contribute to the **Lasting Inclusivity** pillar (**Outcome 3**) by which *"Key actors within society are systematically engaged and empowered to contribute to accelerated NDC implementation, long-term net-zero and climate resilient development pathways"* (see Appendix 2).

Building on the momentum for inclusive and whole-of-society NDC enhancement processes (promoted and supported under UNDP's Climate Promise), support under this Outcome aims to demonstrate a stronger voice and strengthened capacities of key stakeholder groups (i.e. women/girls, youth, Indigenous people) and stronger engagement of and contributions from the private sector in leading or engaging in NDC implementation. Support is focused on further strengthening governance systems and engagement processes that reinforce inclusivity for implementation – through a rights-based approach. This includes a strong focus on gender equality, youth, and indigenous peoples. This will leverage existing work and strategies from partners (e.g. UNDP Mission 1.5, NDC Partnership's Youth Strategy, gender-responsive NDC planning approaches) to scale-up work to empower vulnerable and marginalized groups and use climate action to help address issues of injustice.

Expected results and indicators:

More specifically, the project will contribute to the following expected results:

- **Output 3.1** *“National stakeholder engagement processes established or strengthened to empower key actors (e.g. indigenous peoples, women, youth and/or vulnerable groups), in participating and leading NDC implementation processes and long-term climate action”*; and
- **Output 3.2** *“Innovative engagement mechanisms and initiatives are leveraged, developed and/or scaled up to promote social mobilization for climate action”*

To successfully support this engagement at the country level, the project will also provide dedicated support to ensure youth engagement in global processes – informing decision-making, enhance visibility and sharing experiences and lessons learned from the country-level engagement. This includes supporting participation in global processes (e.g. UNFCCC and COP) and other relevant forum. These activities would contribute to the International Engagement work of the Climate Promise portfolio (Outcome 4) by which “Regional and global awareness, advocacy, and partnerships are strengthened to contribute to enhanced NDC and LTS ambition and delivery capacity”, and more specifically to Output 4.1 “Enhanced knowledge exchange and partnerships through global and regional forums/mechanisms” and to UNDP's knowledge management and sharing on youth empowerment.

The above outputs will be monitored using the relevant portfolio indicators¹ articulated in the Global results framework, namely:

- **Indicator 3.1.1** *“Number of countries, where women, girls, youth, indigenous peoples and/or vulnerable groups are represented in decision-making mechanisms and processes to support NDC implementation and long-term climate action”*
- **Indicator 3.2.1** *“Number of countries where engagement mechanisms and initiatives have been leveraged, developed or scaled up to promote social mobilization for climate action”*
- **Indicator 4.1.2** *“Number of knowledge products generated and disseminated”*

¹ The Climate Promise Results Framework is pending internal approval – expected early 2023. This will include indication of baseline and targets for each of the indicators in the global framework. Therefore, the related outcome, output and indicators statements are indicative, and baseline/targets forthcoming. In addition, UNDP may be required to make adjustments during the course of the project to better reflect the country workplans and emerging priorities.

In addition, to specifically track the achievements of this project towards engaging with youth actors in particular, the following sub-indicators will also be tracked, and measured to contribute to the above results framework indicators. Following the workplanning and country selection, and aligned with the finalization of the Global Results Framework, specific baseline and targets will be defined for these indicators. They include:

- Number of countries where youth-led initiatives for climate ambition (partnerships and grants with youth organisations, movements and networks)
- Number of partnerships convened by UNDP with youth organisations, movements and networks on climate action.

Activities would be defined based on specific country demand and available resources, and could include:

1. **Small Grants for Young Leaders of climate initiatives, organisations, movements and networks:** Recognizing the unique needs of young leaders, and responding to ongoing calls from young people for increased funding and access to climate finance, this area would offer specific resources for youth-led climate solutions that would directly contribute to NDC implementation processes. Small grants would allow young people to bring forward innovative approaches to drive climate action and contribute to the delivery of countries' NDCs. This could build on existing models of support already underway e.g. small grants delivered through the Climate Promise to indigenous peoples for realizing NDC forestry targets (supported by UK-DEFRA)
2. **Meaningful Engagement in NDC processes:** Support the engagement of young people from marginalized communities and in fragile environments (youth with disabilities, Indigenous youth, youth living in rural areas and fragile contexts, etc.) in NDC enhancement and implementation to ensure that these actors are meaningfully included in discussions and decision-making processes. This includes establishing or strengthening platforms for engagement, translating publications in local languages to make information more accessible, or providing translations or travel for marginalized youth to participate in regional events.
3. **Engagement in UNFCCC and other process:** Support to participate in various meetings and engagements under the UNFCCC, including COP28, and beyond, to inform decision making and share experiences and perspectives from work in country and diverse realities of young people leading climate ambition initiatives.

To ensure the experiences and results of these activities are being shared/replicated and helping to inform various global, regional and national processes, several knowledge-related activities will be supported. This includes a thematic report documenting and analyzing key experiences, lessons learned and results emerging from engaging and empowering youth in NDC processes – both within the Climate Promise portfolio and beyond. In addition, leveraging the existing online platforms (e.g. UNDP SparkBlue, UNDPs' Climate Promise website), a community of practice on youth and climate will be strengthened to further share on experiences, insights and exchange. This will support actors both during implementation as well as to showcase and share results/lessons learned from completed activities.

Geographic scope and country selection

This contribution will support the global scope of the Climate Promise, which currently is engaged in over 120 countries and territories? around the world. Building on this engagement, and during the first weeks/months of implementation, an assessment of the needs and demand will be undertaken to identify countries and relevant activities within this portfolio. This will ensure the contribution is country-driven, based on demand and will deliver greatest impact. The Least Developed Countries (LDCs) will be prioritized, and particularly the partner countries of Belgium (14), all of which are currently engaged with the Climate Promise: Benin, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Youth participation and selection

A call for application for small grants will be developed, aligned with UNDP rules and procedures, drawing on UNDPs' networks and engagements. For the other activities, young people will be engaged that have already been identified in Climate Promise workplans and/or have been identified by youth movements and UNDP experts, as needed.

Partnerships & engagements

The Climate Promise will build on the broad network developed over years by the UNDP Youth global programme for sustainable development and peace and various inter-agency processes. A focus will be on involvement of youth climate movements – formal and informal- as well as grassroots youth. Further engagement with Enabel will also be explored, building on existing networks and engagements

Indicative contribution allocation & workplan

The total amount of this new contribution is EUR 500,000.00. This amount will be pooled together with other resources currently financing outcomes 3 and 4 of the Climate Promise portfolio. Several other donors have contributed to activities under these two pillars, including: Germany, Sweden, United Kingdom, and Iceland. (Please note that no other contributions are specifically earmarked for youth engagement or the inclusivity pillar, but are inclusive of all outcomes under the portfolio).

The following table outlines an indicative allocation of funding for delivering of this contribution. This is only indicative at this stage, and would be flexible depending on specific demand/needs identified in countries, support required for various activities for international engagement, and further conversations with Belgium:

EXPECTED RESULT	ACTIVITY	AMOUNT IN EUR
Lasting Inclusivity (outcome 3)		
	Small grants	180,000
	Meaningful youth engagement in NDC processes (focus on marginalized youth) in line with CP workplans	160,000
International Engagement (outcome 4)	1 thematic report on youth engagement in NDCs and delivery of the Paris Agreement, drawing on experiences from UNDP's portfolio Support participation in global processes, including COP28 Active youth and climate community of practice, leveraging online platforms	68,379
Programme management	- Financial management and oversight - Monitoring and reporting - Technical support to countries, including - Country assessment/identification	50,000
TOTAL Programmable costs		458,379
General Management Support costs	8%	36,670
Coordination Levy	1%	4,950
TOTAL Contribution		500,000

The project is expected to start in January 2023. Its implementation will follow the Climate Promise implementation timeframe (2022-2026), over the next 4 years. The first step will be to undertake a full assessment of needs and identify priority countries to support. This will be done through consideration of several criteria (e.g. ongoing work under the Climate Promise, capacity in country, existing networks, potential for impact) and in consultation with Belgium. Once countries are agreed, and allocation defined, a workplanning process will commence which aligns with the broader Climate Promise portfolio planning process. Each country defines its own national workplan, led by the UNDP Country Office in consultation with the Government. The youth-specific activities would be incorporated into this workplan which reflects all activities ongoing in-country that contribute to NDC implementation processes and the outcomes of the Climate Promise portfolio. Once the workplan is approved internally within UNDP, implementation will begin, led by the respective UNDP Country Office. Implementation timelines will vary to align with other ongoing Climate Promise activities and roll out, within the scope of the Climate Promise timeline.

Reporting and oversight

UNDP will actively monitor and track delivery at all levels (country, regional, and global) aligned to its policies and procedures. The Climate Promise follows an integrated reporting structure, producing:

- Quarterly updates from countries will be presented in the portfolio **dashboard** accessible to all donors.
- A full **annual report** with a global focus covering the contribution from all donors for a specific year. The report will follow UNDP Donor reporting template and include at a minimum an annual Executive Summary, Background, Progress Review (output level results corresponding to agreed-upon indicators), Project Risks and Issues, Lessons Learned, Conclusions and Way Forward, and combined financial status at the portfolio level.
- A range of **thematic products**, which will be broader in scope than annual reviews with a focus on specific themes (e.g. a report focused on youth engagement).

The Government of Belgium will be part of the Portfolio Steering Committee, a strategic advisory body that provides strategic guidance, assesses progress implementation at the portfolio level and undertakes corrective actions if necessary. The Portfolio Steering Committee will meet at least once a year.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Climate Promise brochure

Appendix 2 – Climate Promise portfolio Results Framework (indicative)