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Strengthening Institutional Mechanisms for NDC Design, Implementation and Tracking

DO'S AND DON'TS

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DO'S AND DON'TS

The following table outlines critical actions and common pitfalls that countries should consider when establishing and refining their institutional frameworks for NDC processes.

This is not an exhaustive list and there are additional do's and don'ts that may be relevant in specific contexts. However, the table highlights several important considerations that can guide countries in strengthening their NDC institutional mechanisms.

CATEGORY	DO'S	DON'TS
Institutional Framework	**By taking these steps, institutions can create a structured and well-defined framework that supports long-term effectiveness and accountability.** • Conduct comprehensive assessments to identify gaps and opportunities. • Formalise institutional roles and responsibilities with clear mandates.	**We want to avoid vague frameworks that create overlaps, inefficiencies, and a lack of continuity.** • Avoid relying on informal or ad-hoc institutional arrangements. • Avoid overlooking the need for clear, formalised institutional structures.
Capacity Building	**Empowering stakeholders with the right skills and knowledge fosters long-term engagement and enhances the effectiveness of climate action efforts.** • Provide targeted training for all relevant stakeholders. • Build institutional and technical capacity for sustained NDC enhancement and implementation.	**Without proper capacity-building, institutions risk dependency on external expertise and may struggle to maintain progress independently.** • Avoid assigning responsibilities without ensuring capacity is adequate. • Avoid over-relying on external consultants without transferring knowledge.

CATEGORY	DO'S	DON'TS
Data Management and MRV	**A well-structured data system improves transparency, reliability, and comparability, ensuring informed decision-making and accurate tracking of NDC progress.** • Develop integrated MRV systems with clear processes and responsibilities. • Standardise data collection, verification and reporting mechanisms.	**Weak data governance can lead to inaccurate reporting, diminished credibility, and ineffective policy adjustments.** • Avoid inconsistent or poor data management practices. • Avoid cutting corners on quality control and assurance in reporting.
Sustainability	**Maintaining institutional knowledge and ensuring sustained funding help avoid disruptions and enable consistent progress toward decarbonization goals.** • Establish mechanisms for long-term institutional memory, such as robust archiving.	**A lack of foresight in financing and institutional stability can result in fragmented efforts and lost momentum over time.** • Avoid neglecting long-term funding strategies and institutional continuity.
Stakeholder Engagement	**Bringing different voices into the conversation strengthens collaboration, enhances policy effectiveness, and increases long-term support.** • Engage diverse stakeholders, including government, private sector and civil society. • Foster transparency and inclusivity to build trust and ownership.	**Overlooking stakeholder input can lead to resistance, weakened implementation, and missed opportunities for collective action.** • Avoid excluding key stakeholders or underestimating their importance in decision-making. • Avoid imposing policies without stakeholder consultation and buy-in.

CATEGORY	DO'S	DON'TS
Integration with Policies	**Embedding NDCs into broader policy frameworks prevents redundancy, enhances alignment, and maximises impact.** • Align NDC processes with national and sectoral strategies to ensure coherence. • Leverage existing planning processes for efficiency and integration.	**Disjointed climate policies risk inefficiency, reduced effectiveness, and missed synergies with existing national priorities.** • Avoid treating NDCs as stand-alone commitments separate from broader national goals. • Avoid overlooking sector-specific requirements in the integration process.
Legal and Governance	**A strong legal foundation provides clarity, reinforces compliance, and institutionalises climate commitments beyond political cycles.** • Enact legal frameworks or agreements to institutionalise NDC implementation processes. • Promote accountability through formal oversight mechanisms.	**We want to avoid ambiguity, lack of enforcement, and gaps in governance that hinder effective implementation.** • Avoid weak legal structures that fail to enforce compliance or ensure accountability. • Avoid undefining institutional responsibilities without enforcement mechanisms.

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This guide and the NDC 3.0 Guidebook for Industrial Decarbonization was developed by The Net Zero Partnership for Industrial Decarbonization.

This is a global initiative led by UNIDO that supports lower-income countries with transitioning towards low-carbon steel, cement and concrete. The project offers tailored policy support, promotes decarbonization solutions, and encourages international collaboration to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

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