



Integrating Urban and Subnational Priorities into Country Platforms

Policy Brief

April 2025

CITIES CLIMATE
FINANCE
LEADERSHIP
ALLIANCE



SDSN GLOBAL COMMISSION FOR
URBAN SDG FINANCE

AUTHORS

Priscilla Negreiros, Jessie Press-Williams, Hamza Abdullah (CCFLA); Delfina Vildosola (SDSN Global Commission for Urban SDG Finance)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors would like to thank Eugenie Birch (SDSN Global Commission), Amanda Lloyd (UPenn IUR), Erik Berglof (AIIB), Murtaza Syed (AIIB), Seleha Lockwood (AIIB) and Chunping Xie (AIIB) for their guidance and support throughout the paper development. We also gratefully acknowledge the review and comments from Barbara Buchner (CPI), Josué Tanaka (LSE/C40), Chavi Meattle (CPI), Jyoti Sharma (CPI), Kristiina Yang (CCFLA), Conor Barry (AIIB), Abhijit Sen Gupta (AIIB), Yuan Xiao (AIIB) and Zhe Fu (AIIB). We are grateful to EBRD Green Cities representatives (Lin O’Grady and Christina Teokari) for participating in interviews to provide insight into the Green Cities program in Egypt. The contents of this report represent solely the view of the authors. All opinions, as well as any omissions or errors, remain those of the authors. We are also grateful to CPI colleagues Angel Jacob and Kirsty Taylor for editorial review, as well as Elana Fortin, Angela Woodall and Alice Moi for graphics and design.

ABOUT THE CITIES CLIMATE FINANCE LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE

The Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (CCFLA) is a coalition of leaders committed to deploying finance for city-level climate action at scale by 2030. Trillions of dollars will be required to help cities build the low-emissions, resilient infrastructure necessary to combat and react to climate change. CCFLA is the only multilevel and multi-stakeholder coalition aimed at closing the investment gap for urban subnational climate projects and infrastructure worldwide.

ABOUT THE SDSN GLOBAL COMMISSION FOR URBAN SDG FINANCE

The SDSN Global Commission for Urban SDG Finance, launched in June 2023, is co-chaired by Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris, Eduardo Paes, Mayor of Rio de Janeiro, and Jeffrey Sachs, President and founder of SDSN. It is comprised of 90+ mayors, governors, civil society and private sector leaders, scientists, and academics focused on developing and championing innovative ideas and solutions to increase urban SDG finance. The University of Pennsylvania hosts the Commission’s Secretariat.



DESCRIPTORS

REGION

Global

KEYWORDS

Urban climate finance; IFIs

RELATED CPI WORKS

[Accelerating Urban Climate Finance in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: An important strategic dimension of MDB reform \(2023\)](#)

CONTACT

CCFLA Secretariat alliancesecretariat@cpiglobal.org

MEDIA CONTACT

Angel Jacob Angel.Jacob@cpiglobal.org

RECOMMENDED CITATION

CCFLA and SDSN Commission. 2025. Integrating Urban and Subnational Priorities into Country Platforms: Policy Brief. Available online: <https://citiesclimatefinance.org/publications/integrating-urban-and-subnational-priorities-into-country-platforms>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Filling the vast financing gap to meet the Paris Agreement goals requires significantly scaling up urban climate finance. This can help to harness cities' great emissions reduction potential and build resilience to the increasing climate-related impacts they face.

Urban climate finance must grow by at least fivefold, to USD 4.3 trillion per year, for cities to meet their mitigation targets by 2030 (CCFLA 2024a). This demands rapid, coordinated action across all levels of government to align development and climate finance with national, regional, and local priorities. Funds must also be deployed strategically to maximize impact.

Country platforms are a key emerging mechanism for increasing climate and development finance. Led by national governments, these instruments can provide a powerful means of fostering collaboration among development partners around a shared strategic vision and priorities (Gilmour et al., 2024). Country platforms help to advance recipient nations' transformational goals in priority areas—including climate finance—with international support to scale up investment. To realize country platforms' full potential, national governments can opt to incorporate urban and subnational climate objectives in their design and priorities.¹

BARRIERS TO INTEGRATING URBAN CLIMATE CONSIDERATIONS INTO COUNTRY PLATFORMS

The same barriers that hinder the integration of subnational priorities into national climate strategies and plans can also sideline these perspectives in country platforms. These include misalignment with national political priorities, limited engagement channels, and capacity gaps. Many subnational governments in developing economies lack fiscal powers, access to finance, and technical capacity, curtailing their role in national development planning. Addressing these barriers, laid out in Table ES1, can enable more inclusive and effective national strategies and integrate urban climate concerns into country platforms.

¹ Responsibilities for implementing and overseeing climate issues may vary, depending on countries' political systems. We, therefore, use the term "subnational governments" to refer to political entities and "urban" to refer to the sectoral perspective.

Table ES1: Barriers to integrating urban climate priorities into country platforms

| CATEGORY | BARRIERS IMPEDING SUBNATIONAL INTEGRATION INTO COUNTRY PLATFORMS |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Governance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misalignment between national and subnational priorities. • Limited direct subnational engagement in decision-making. • Political misalignment between levels of government. • Indirect subnational finance negotiations. |
| Project level | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited subnational pipelines and investment planning. • Subnational capacity gaps hindering planning and budget integration. |
| Financing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiscal capacity and creditworthiness constraints at subnational levels, reducing access to domestic and international finance. • Limited subnational financial instruments impeding investor interest. |

URBAN-INCLUSIVE COUNTRY PLATFORM FRAMEWORK

CCFLA's vision for urban-inclusive country platforms is of nationally led platforms that have integrated subnational and urban climate agendas. Achieving this requires building a strong multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism that systematically integrates urban/subnational priorities into the design, governance, and implementation of climate and development strategies. This can ensure meaningful participation of subnational governments, alignment of local and national climate plans, and the mobilization of finance for urban mitigation, adaptation, and resilience projects. By embedding multilevel governance, sectoral coordination, and inclusive financing mechanisms, these platforms could enhance the effectiveness, equity, and scalability of country-driven climate action.

This paper presents a framework for urban-inclusive country platforms, aiming to support national governments in systematically integrating urban and subnational needs into the design, governance, financing, and implementation of country platforms.

This framework is particularly aimed at supporting national governments in countries characterized by rapid urbanization and the associated growth potential, along with climate and development challenges. It may be especially useful in contexts where urban centers are major sources of emissions and climate risks yet struggle with policy alignment and financial constraints and are often excluded from decision-making. In such settings, incorporating an urban and subnational perspective into country platforms can help to avoid emissions-intensive development pathways and build resilient communities and infrastructure.

The proposed framework includes a sequential roadmap moving from initial engagement to implementation to help national governments meaningfully engage subnational governments and urban priorities in decision-making, policy alignment, and resource allocation. The roadmap builds upon the five stages of Tanaka and Gilmour's Country Platform Development Escalator (2025), adapting this tool to focus on the urban level, informed by G20 principles.²

These stages are:

1. **Initial Engagement:** Establish whole-of-government ownership, engage urban ministries, and create inclusive coordination mechanisms such as national secretariats and urban taskforces.
2. **Program Readiness:** Align sectoral and cross-sectoral priorities across levels of government, including directly working on policy changes, and formally include subnational adaptation needs and just transition priorities in planning processes.
3. **Investment Program:** Support cities in developing Local Climate Action Plans (LCAPs) and project pipelines, provide tailored project preparation, and aggregate subnational investments to attract larger-scale financing.
4. **Financing:** Deploy concessional and innovative financial instruments targeting cities, leverage national and local financial intermediaries, and enable city-private sector engagement through technical assistance (TA) and matchmaking.
5. **Implementation:** Promote phased, adaptive delivery that includes city-level tracking, peer learning, civil society engagement, and coordinated delivery of TA and finance at the subnational level.

Each stage includes **concrete operating features** and **indicators** to guide platform developers and financiers in building inclusive, scalable, and results-oriented country platforms. The framework is not intended to be prescriptive but offers flexible entry points for countries at various stages of platform development. While these operating features are inherently cross-cutting, they have been aligned with the stage where their impact is most critical.

² These principles provide a non-binding framework to guide countries and development partners in designing and implementing country platforms that are country-owned, adapted to local contexts, and focused on sustainable development through inclusive collaboration, transparency, and continuous improvement (G20 2020).

Table ES2: Framework for Urban-inclusive Country Platforms

| OPERATING FEATURE FOR URBAN-INCLUSIVE COUNTRY PLATFORMS | INDICATORS OF SUCCESSFUL URBAN INTEGRATION |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Stage 1: Initial Engagement: Consolidating early country interest in a country platform approach to achieve specific national priority climate and development objectives. | |
| Country ownership and leadership include a whole-of-government approach involving subnational actors and urban perspectives. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National governments recognize the need to prioritize urban climate action in country platforms to mobilize resources, align efforts, and amplify impact. • National-level consultations are held regularly with subnational leaders (or their representatives) to incorporate their investment needs and priorities into the investment planning processes of the country platform. • The country platform's national task force and secretariat include national institutions responsible for leading urban issues in the country (e.g., the urban/cities ministry or equivalent) in their central coordination structure. |
| International partnerships involve subnational stakeholders. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subnational stakeholders are directly engaged with international development partners and support initiation, coordination, investment, and planning of country platform activities. • This can be done through a subnational technical working group comprising subnational representatives and international partners (e.g., heads of urban departments of MDBs, UN agencies, and vertical climate funds). This group, operating in a country-owned approach, advises the national task force and secretariat on urban climate finance. |
| Stage 2: Program Readiness: Setting the organizational, policy, and technical underpinning of the platform. | |
| Sectoral and cross-sectoral objectives, investment planning, and execution are aligned across levels of government. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country platforms include key sectors relevant to subnational climate action and align with aggregated LCAP sectoral targets. • National and subnational governments collaborate to reform policy structures that improve access to local revenue streams, establish more consistent and predictable intergovernmental fiscal transfers, and strengthen the financial capacity of cities. • Subnational and urban adaptation and resilience priorities (e.g., extreme heat or flood resilience) are included in the country platform's (cross-)sectoral objectives. • Each sector or pillar of the country platform includes a subnational focus embedded through the inclusion of city-level solutions (e.g., rooftop solar in energy or electric vehicle infrastructure for transport). • The country platform's sectoral working groups include representatives of i) urban-related sector/department officials of MDBs/UN agencies; and ii) major city governments responsible for emissions and implementation of each sector. |
| Just transition activities are planned and costed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The country platform prioritizes social inclusion and explicitly considers vulnerable communities in subnational and urban areas by including experts on just transition in the working team and sectoral working groups. • Investment is prioritized in green jobs, social protection, and resilient infrastructure to ensure equitable transitions in cities. |

| OPERATING FEATURE FOR URBAN-INCLUSIVE COUNTRY PLATFORMS | INDICATORS OF SUCCESSFUL URBAN INTEGRATION |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Stage 3: Investment Program: Formulation of the investment program reflecting scale and sequencing of projects to achieve platform goal. | |
| Programmatic approach ensures urban investment needs are programmatically represented in country platform financial mobilization plans. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subnational governments are supported in developing LCAPs, which development institutions and financiers can use to identify project pipelines and evaluate risk. • The country platform provides coordinated and comprehensive project preparation support for subnational governments, combining grants and TA with financing to develop project pipelines. • The country platform aggregates subnational projects to better match low-ticket-size urban projects with investors' economies of scale. This can be done through coordination within and between subnational jurisdictions for supply- and demand-side aggregation, combining multiple projects, partners, and investment sizes, which can lead to stronger credit profiles and more attractive project portfolios. • National governments are supported in developing public-private partnerships for climate action at the subnational level and across subnational regions. |
| Stage 4: Financing: Mobilization of financing from public and private, local and external sources to build the country platform capital stack. | |
| Financial instruments deployed include concessional and innovative financial products targeted at cities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The country platform adopts innovative financial mechanisms and de-risking instruments (e.g., blended finance and guarantees) to help mitigate creditworthiness barriers to subnational climate finance and crowd in private investors and development finance institutions. • Country platforms leverage intermediaries like national development banks (NDBs) and local commercial institutions to scale investment in subnational projects and deploy local currency instruments that offset subnational creditworthiness barriers, especially for smaller cities. • The country platform provides explicit support for subnational governments to engage with the private sector more systematically and ambitiously through TA and investor matchmaking. |
| Stage 5: Implementation: Translation of investment plan into a set of implemented projects, policies, and capacity-building activities leading to platform outcomes and impact. | |
| Phased and adaptive implementation includes urban-focused engagement and impact measurement. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is enhanced access to city-level climate data to track project-level activities and monitor evolving climate and financial risk, finance needs, and project progress. • Learning-by-doing is promoted through peer-to-peer exchanges of city-level experiences among subnational jurisdictions. • TA and financing efforts are aggregated across subnational jurisdictions to support more efficient delivery. • Civil society engagement includes specific considerations for urban stakeholders, including vulnerable communities in subnational and urban areas. |

CONTENTS

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Executive Summary | 1 |
| Introduction | 7 |
| 1. Country platforms: engaging subnational governments | 9 |
| 1.1 Urban-inclusive country platforms | 9 |
| 1.2 Barriers to implementing subnational and urban-inclusive country platforms | 10 |
| 2. Framework for urban-inclusive country platforms | 13 |
| 2.1 Conditions for an urban-inclusive country platform | 13 |
| 2.2 Urban-inclusive framework | 13 |
| 3. Applying the framework: Egypt, Brazil, and India | 17 |
| 3.1 Egypt's Nexus for Water, Food, and Energy | 17 |
| 3.2 Brazil's Climate and Ecological Transformation Investment Platform | 18 |
| 3.3 India's opportunity to increase finance for climate action | 20 |
| 4. Conclusion and applications to ongoing discussions | 22 |
| References | 24 |
| Annex | 26 |

INTRODUCTION

Raising finance to the level needed to meet Paris Agreement goals requires scaling up support for cities on the frontlines of the climate crisis. Currently, 56% of the global population resides in cities, a figure projected to rise to 70% by 2050 (World Bank 2023a). Cities also contribute over 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions (IPCC 2022). Urban areas, especially in emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs), are increasingly experiencing severe and frequent extreme weather events. The responsibility of responding to these climate emergencies most often falls upon subnational governments.

Subnational governments are crucial to the success of countries' climate action but lack the funds to drive these efforts. Urban and subnational governments typically regulate and tax emissions-intensive sectors, such as buildings, land use, and transport. However, they face significant barriers to accessing climate finance. Urban climate finance must increase fivefold, to USD 4.3 trillion per year, for cities to meet their climate mitigation targets by 2030 (CCFLA 2024a). Addressing this challenge requires commitment to urban climate action at the national and global levels, strengthening multilevel coordination and enabling environments. Cities also need support to build their capacities and capital mobilization, including to resolve issues of creditworthiness and access to capital markets (CCFLA 2024a).

Cities have shown leadership and collaboration on climate action, and national governments are increasingly assigning them responsibilities for addressing climate change (World Bank 2022). More than 120 countries have subnational-level climate policies, though these often lack funding, national support, multilevel governance coordination, and capacity (IPCC 2023). The NDC Partnership reported in 2020 that national governments had increasingly requested support for engaging with subnational actors within its country engagement process, with 36 countries making 134 such requests in mitigation sectors like transport, energy, and waste (NDC Partnership 2020).

Development finance institutions (DFIs)³ could play a bigger role in funding urban climate action. While DFIs provided 28% of all global climate finance in 2021/22, they only provided 7% of tracked climate finance going to cities (CCFLA 2024a). Multilateral development banks (MDBs) are particularly well positioned to accelerate urban climate action by using their concessional funds to leverage private finance and other public investment, especially in EMDEs. Yet, subnational governments face challenges in accessing this finance, including capacity constraints, political misalignment with national governments, and limited project scale.

Mobilizing finance to help national and subnational governments achieve their climate and development goals will take coordinated efforts across public and private sources. To do so, domestic and international funders must shift from project-based to strategic, programmatic approaches. Many international coalitions, including the G20, its working groups, and the Independent Expert Group, as well as the Climate COPs and the Group of

3 According to the [OECD](#), "National and international development finance institutions (DFIs) are specialised development banks or subsidiaries set up to support private sector development in developing countries. They are usually majority-owned by national governments and source their capital from national or international development funds or benefit from government guarantees."

MDBs in their Joint Statement at COP29 (Group of MDBs 2024), have considered Country Climate and Development Investment Platforms as an instrument to increase country-led climate transitions (Tanaka et al. 2024).

Country platforms are “voluntary country-level mechanisms, set out by governments and designed to foster collaboration among development partners, based on a shared strategic vision and priorities” (Tanaka and Gilmour 2025). Their objectives may include bolstering domestic markets and government capacity and increasing the implementation of climate transition plans, such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). They are also evolving to act as a mechanism to address some MDB reform agenda requests for improved collaboration among DFIs. Country platforms for climate, nature, and/or development finance are being implemented or discussed in countries including Brazil, Indonesia, South Africa, Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, Vietnam, Malawi, and Tanzania (ACF 2025). These platforms can drive a country-led shared vision and priorities with a range of climate and development stakeholders, such as vertical and climate-environmental funds, NDBs, and the private sector.

However, national governments have not yet integrated urban and subnational⁴ needs into their country platforms’ objectives and sectoral priorities (see Annex). Given the importance of cities in driving the climate response, this could limit country platforms’ ability to address critical challenges.

This policy brief is laid out as follows:

- **Section 1** provides context on existing country platforms and why such mechanisms must prioritize urban climate concerns.
- **Section 2** proposes an adapted framework for urban-inclusive country platforms and practical steps to enable them.
- **Section 3** provides case studies of ongoing initiatives.

⁴ Depending on each country’s political system, responsibilities for implementing and overseeing climate issues may vary. Throughout this brief, we, therefore, use the term “subnational governments” to refer to political entities and “urban” to refer to the sectoral perspective. We define subnational government as a decentralized entity having general responsibilities and total or partial autonomy (e.g., over budget, staff, assets) to implement urban climate action. Depending on whether the country has a unitary or federal system, subnational governments could be municipal, intermediary, state, or regional governments (OECD 2022). We define “urban” as areas characterized by a high population density, built environment, and social and economic activity—often governed at the subnational level (including the municipal level).

1. COUNTRY PLATFORMS: ENGAGING SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

1.1 URBAN-INCLUSIVE COUNTRY PLATFORMS

Country platforms have supported coordinated development efforts and are now central to advancing climate action. Initiatives like the Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JET-Ps) have pioneered multi-stakeholder models to accelerate investment in climate and development goals (CPI 2024; Gilmour et al. 2024; BMZ 2025). These were first established in 2021 in South Africa, followed by Senegal, Vietnam, and Indonesia. Other platforms in Bangladesh, Egypt, and Brazil since 2022 have expanded this focus to broader climate action, including adaptation and resilience.⁵

While there is no universal definition of country platforms, we highlight some emerging common principles reflecting lessons learned from the JET-Ps, the G20 Reference Framework for Effective Country Platforms,⁶ and other recent documents (see Group of MDBs 2024; Tanaka and Gilmour 2025). These principles are detailed below:

- **Political commitment and country ownership:** Country platforms must be initiated and led by countries themselves, ensuring strong political commitment and alignment with the Paris Agreement. This ownership drives ambition around climate targets and fosters a whole-of-economy approach. Action through the platform can be driven by the underlying national, sectoral, and subnational Paris-aligned transition pathway assessments.
- **Local country needs:** Effective platforms can accelerate the identification of local investment needs and programs. This could involve building on existing activities, coordination, and local mechanisms.
- **Mobilizing finance from private and development partners:** Focus on resource mobilization from the public and private sectors at national, regional, and international levels. This approach should be programmatic, incorporating multi-year, thematic, sectoral, or cross-sectoral strategies to drive systemic and holistic climate and development investment.
- **Collaboration and transparency:** Enhance collaboration and transparency through voluntary information sharing and continuous learning among development partners, as well as by facilitating the implementation of key standards, including those related to environmental, social, and governance, procurement, debt sustainability, transparency, and local capacity building.

⁵ Section 3 includes case studies on country platforms in Egypt, Brazil and India. See Annex for more details on existing country platform implementation.

⁶ These principles provide a non-binding framework to guide countries and development partners in designing and implementing country platforms that are country-owned, adapted to local contexts, and focused on sustainable development through inclusive collaboration, transparency and continuous improvement (G20 2020).

Country-led platforms are key to fostering the implementation of country-driven transition plans in line with NDCs, NAPs, Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategies, and others (Tanaka et al. 2024). They can cover mitigation, adaptation, nature, biodiversity, and other sustainable development priorities in various sectors and apply different implementation models across different countries. Most of all, they can encourage a shift from a short-term project focus to a longer-term programmatic approach. Country platforms are intended to move away from the current project-by-project climate finance approach, where countries negotiate climate loans and grants with different financial institutions in a fragmented manner. Ensuring that international development partners operate “as a system” is key to improving efficiency and coherence in supporting countries’ climate investment needs (Tanaka et al. 2024).

An urban-inclusive country platform, as proposed in this report, is a nationally led platform that integrates urban priorities. Achieving this requires building a strong multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism that systematically integrates urban and/or subnational priorities into the design, governance, and implementation of climate and development strategies. This can ensure meaningful participation of city and regional governments, alignment of local and national climate plans, and the mobilization of finance for urban mitigation, adaptation, and resilience projects. By embedding multilevel governance, sectoral coordination, and inclusive financing mechanisms, these platforms could enhance the effectiveness, equity, and scalability of country-driven climate action.

Few country platforms to date have directly engaged stakeholders at a subnational level or prioritized urban climate action as key to their development. A partial exception is South Africa’s JET-P, where the national task force conducted some consultations with local governments, and municipal projects were included in the overall portfolio (Gilmour et al. 2024).

National governments that integrate urban climate concerns into their country platforms can strengthen mitigation and adaptation outcomes. Urban-inclusive country platforms can enable subnational governments to gain greater policy and capacity support and increased TA for project pipeline development, which can help mobilize capital to achieve their climate goals. This can increase the impact and effectiveness of the country platform to reduce emissions and build resilience of the country as a whole.

1.2 BARRIERS TO IMPLEMENTING SUBNATIONAL AND URBAN-INCLUSIVE COUNTRY PLATFORMS

There are challenges to implementing country platforms with strengthened multilevel governance and/or enhanced urban sectoral focus. We classify these barriers into three categories: governance, project-level, and financial. The barriers hinder the integration of subnational governments and urban sectoral focus into country platform processes and priorities.

These barriers curtail subnational governments’ participation in national development planning, which in turn reduces their consideration as integral stakeholders for implementing country platforms. Integrating urban dimensions into country platforms will require overcoming several of these systemic barriers (Table 1).

Table 1: Barriers to integrating urban considerations into country platforms

| CATEGORY | DETAILED DESCRIPTION |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Governance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misalignment between national and subnational climate priorities: There is a persistent gap in aligning local climate action plans with NDCs. While 66% of NDCs contain moderate or strong urban content, only 40% mention urban climate hazards, and less than 15% include specific requests for finance at urban levels (UN-Habitat 2024). • Limited platforms for engagement in decision-making: Subnational governments are often not directly engaged in country platform decision-making. Current models do not include subnational-focused taskforces or working groups (Gilmour et al. 2024). • Political misalignment: Political cycles and potential political divergence between national and subnational governments may limit the latter's engagement in country platform discussions. • Indirect subnational finance negotiations: Most DFIs have national governments as their only focal points and require sovereign guarantees for financing sub-sovereign operations, which limits subnational governments' ability to directly negotiate project financing. |
| Project-Level | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of subnational project pipelines and investment planning: Many subnational governments, particularly in EMDEs, face difficulty in preparing investment-ready projects (CCFLA 2024b). This can stem from a lack of technical capacity, projects' small ticket sizes, and unclear returns on investments. This is particularly challenging when country platforms do not include project preparation facilities. • Capacity gaps: Subnational governments often lack the technical capacity to conduct data-driven climate risk assessments, develop climate action and investment plans, mainstream climate change into budgets, and access available finance (CCFLA 2024a). This may lead to missed opportunities between subnational governments and country platforms to implement climate solutions and build confidence among financiers effectively. |
| Financing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of fiscal capacity and creditworthiness at subnational levels: Subnational governments often lack established revenue streams to finance climate action and face challenges in accessing reimbursable investments from national governments, capital markets, or external sources due to a lack of creditworthiness (CCFLA 2024a). Limited creditworthiness undermines subnational access to domestic and international finance. • Lack of subnational-level and city-focused financial instruments: Private investors and DFIs face significant obstacles to investing in urban climate action, including a lack of appropriate financial instruments to source and invest in quality pipelines of subnational and urban climate infrastructure projects (CCFLA 2024a). In the context of country platforms, this may result in excluding subnational and urban projects from the country platform's national pipelines. |

By recognizing the specific needs of subnational governments and ensuring their representation in investment plans, policies, regulations, and financing mechanisms, country platforms can drive sustainable and resilient development. Collaboration between all levels of government and international partners is crucial for the success of these efforts. Bangladesh's Climate Development Partnership demonstrates such a collaborative, multilevel approach to support the country's climate and development goals (Box 1).

Box 1: Bangladesh's Climate Development Partnership

The Bangladesh National Committee for Environment and Climate Change, headed by the Prime Minister, became effective in 2023 as the inter-ministerial body overseeing the implementation of the government's climate strategy. This strategy adopts a "whole-of-government" approach via the Bangladesh Climate Development Partnership (BCDP). The BCDP works across ministries and engages with public and private stakeholders, including at subnational levels, to create a pipeline of climate projects and programs aligned with national plans and integrate them with a financing strategy.

Although not officially called a country platform, the BCDP reflects the emerging principles of one. Its collaborative approach involves international financial institutions, bilateral donors, and the private sector to support Bangladesh in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

The BCDP structure includes a coordinating board and working groups covering (i) domestic climate finance; (ii) external climate finance; (iii) policy, knowledge, and capacity building; and (iv) project development support, monitoring, and evaluation (ADB 2024). It also includes a TA team to facilitate coordination, track progress, and support the creation of a project development facility for climate projects (ADB 2024).

Bangladesh's BCDP takes a multilevel approach and incorporates urban perspectives into the national framework but may need stronger financial tools to support subnational governments directly.

2. FRAMEWORK FOR URBAN-INCLUSIVE COUNTRY PLATFORMS

This section outlines a framework for urban-inclusive country platforms, grounded in the premise that prioritizing urban climate action can significantly enhance the impact and effectiveness of national climate efforts. We outline key considerations for national governments to incorporate cities and subnational actors that could be integrated into the emerging phases of establishing country platforms focused on supporting urban climate action and impact. This framework is particularly aimed at supporting national governments in countries characterized by rapid urbanization and the associated growth potential, along with climate and development challenges. It may be especially relevant in contexts where urban centers are major sources of emissions and climate risks yet struggle with policy alignment and financial constraints and are often excluded from decision-making.

2.1 CONDITIONS FOR AN URBAN-INCLUSIVE COUNTRY PLATFORM

For an urban-inclusive country platform to be effective, certain enabling conditions must be in place to overcome barriers and ensure that subnational governments can participate. These conditions are:

- **Multilevel government coordination:** When subnational governments have greater fiscal autonomy, strong coordination between national and subnational entities becomes crucial to aligning policies, funding mechanisms, and implementation frameworks. In more centralized systems, clear mandates and well-structured intergovernmental collaboration are essential to empower cities and integrate urban priorities into national strategies.
- **Strong subnational financial and climate strategies:** Achieving a critical mass of cities with well-defined climate action plans enables more coherent and scalable integration of urban efforts into national platforms. Similarly, financial plans enhance subnational governments' ability to secure funding by demonstrating fiscal responsibility and investment readiness, improving their access to national investment funds, concessional finance, private sector partnerships, and innovative funding mechanisms.
- **Project preparation support:** Municipal governments, especially those governing small and intermediary cities, require support to overcome capacity and skill shortages in preparing investable projects and connecting them with finance.

2.2 URBAN-INCLUSIVE FRAMEWORK

The approach outlined below builds upon Tanaka and Gilmour's (2025) *Country Platform Development Note*, evolving elements of their Escalator concept by applying a subnational lens. This aims to provide existing and emerging country platforms with a sequential action pathway from initial subnational engagement to implementation. Doing so can enhance the

effectiveness of country platforms, making them more responsive to subnational climate finance needs and development priorities.

Table 2 below outlines our framework along the following dimensions:

- **Stage** refers directly to the five main stages of Tanaka and Gilmour’s Development Escalator, reflecting a general trajectory for countries on moving from initial engagement to implementation of country platforms.
- **Operating feature** is based on the existing proposed model for country platforms, including the voluntary, non-binding principles for effective country platforms approved by the G20 Presidency in 2020 (G20 2020), and the 2024 input paper for TF-CLIMA under the Brazilian presidency of G20, ‘Country Climate and Development Investment Platforms’ (Tanaka et al. 2024). While these operating features are inherently cross-cutting, they have been aligned with the stage where their impact is most critical.
- **Indicators of successful urban integration** provides non-comprehensive guidance for operationalizing these features in urban-inclusive country platforms. These features ensure effective coordination, financing, and implementation of climate and development initiatives while maintaining country ownership and leadership.

Table 2: Framework for phased implementation of urban-inclusive country platforms

| OPERATING FEATURE FOR URBAN-INCLUSIVE COUNTRY PLATFORMS | INDICATORS OF SUCCESSFUL URBAN INTEGRATION |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Stage 1: Initial Engagement: Consolidating early country interest in a country platform approach to achieve specific national priority climate and development objectives. | |
| Country ownership and leadership include a whole-of-government approach involving subnational actors and urban perspectives. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National governments recognize the need to prioritize urban climate action in country platforms to mobilize resources, align efforts, and amplify impact. • National-level consultations are held regularly with subnational leaders (or their representatives) to incorporate their investment needs and priorities into the investment planning processes of the country platform. • The country platform's national task force and secretariat include national institutions responsible for leading urban issues in the country (e.g., the urban/cities ministry or equivalent) in their central coordination structure. |
| International partnerships involve subnational stakeholders. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subnational stakeholders are directly engaged with international development partners and support initiation, coordination, investment, and planning of country platform activities. • This can be done through a subnational technical working group comprising subnational representatives and international partners (e.g., heads of urban departments of MDBs, UN agencies, and vertical climate funds). This group, operating in a country-owned approach, advises the national task force and secretariat on urban climate finance. |
| Stage 2: Program Readiness: Setting the organizational, policy, and technical underpinning of the platform. | |
| Sectoral and cross-sectoral objectives, planning, and execution are aligned across levels of government. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country platforms include key sectors relevant to subnational climate action and align with aggregated LCAP sectoral targets. • National and subnational governments collaborate to reform policy structures that improve access to local revenue streams, establish more consistent and predictable intergovernmental fiscal transfers, and strengthen the financial capacity of cities. • Subnational and urban adaptation and resilience priorities (e.g., extreme heat or flood resilience) are included in the country platform's (cross-)sectoral objectives. • Each sector or pillar of the country platform includes a subnational focus embedded through the inclusion of city-level solutions (e.g., rooftop solar in energy or electric vehicle infrastructure for transport). • The country platform's sectoral working groups include representatives of i) urban-related sector/department officials of MDBs/UN agencies; and ii) major city governments responsible for emissions and implementation of each sector. |
| Just transition activities are planned and costed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The country platform prioritizes social inclusion and explicitly considers vulnerable communities in subnational and urban areas by including experts on just transition in the working team and sectoral working groups. • Investment is prioritized in green jobs, social protection, and resilient infrastructure to ensure equitable transitions in cities. |

| OPERATING FEATURE FOR URBAN-INCLUSIVE COUNTRY PLATFORMS | INDICATORS OF SUCCESSFUL URBAN INTEGRATION |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Stage 3: Investment Program: Formulation of the investment program reflecting scale and sequencing of projects to achieve platform goal. | |
| Programmatic approach ensures urban investment needs are programmatically represented in country platform financial mobilization plans. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subnational governments are supported in developing LCAPs, which development institutions and financiers can use to identify project pipelines and evaluate risk. • The country platform provides coordinated and comprehensive project preparation support for subnational governments, combining grants and TA with financing to develop project pipelines. • The country platform aggregates subnational projects to better match low-ticket-size urban projects with investors' economies of scale. This can be done through coordination within and between subnational jurisdictions for supply- and demand-side aggregation, combining multiple projects, partners, and investment sizes, which can lead to stronger credit profiles and more attractive project portfolios. • National governments are supported in developing public-private partnerships for climate action at the subnational level and across subnational regions. |
| Stage 4: Financing: Mobilization of financing from public and private, local and external sources to build the country platform capital stack. | |
| Financial instruments deployed include concessional and innovative financial products targeted at cities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The country platform adopts innovative financial mechanisms and de-risking instruments (e.g., blended finance and guarantees) to help mitigate creditworthiness barriers to subnational climate finance and crowd in private investors and development finance institutions. • Country platforms leverage intermediaries like national development banks (NDBs) and local commercial institutions to scale investment in subnational projects and deploy local currency instruments that offset subnational creditworthiness barriers, especially for smaller cities. • The country platform provides explicit support for subnational governments to engage with the private sector more systematically and ambitiously through TA and investor matchmaking. |
| Stage 5: Implementation: Translation of investment plan into a set of implemented projects, policies, and capacity-building activities leading to platform outcomes and impact. | |
| Phased and adaptive implementation includes urban-focused engagement and impact measurement. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is enhanced access to city-level climate data to track project-level activities and monitor evolving climate and financial risk, finance needs, and project progress. • Learning-by-doing is promoted through peer-to-peer exchanges of city-level experiences among subnational jurisdictions. • TA and financing efforts are aggregated across subnational jurisdictions to support more efficient delivery. • Civil society engagement includes specific considerations for urban stakeholders, including vulnerable communities in subnational and urban areas. |

3. APPLYING THE FRAMEWORK: EGYPT, BRAZIL, AND INDIA

In order to provide a starting point for applying the framework, we present here one case study of an existing country platform in a centralized country (Egypt’s NWFE) and opportunities to apply the framework to two federal countries (Brazil and India).

3.1 EGYPT’S NEXUS FOR WATER, FOOD, AND ENERGY

As Egypt’s country platform, the Nexus of Water, Food, and Energy (NWFE), is already well established, having launched in 2022. However, there is clear potential to embed stronger urban dimensions and engage subnational governments in the platform’s next phase. To support this, we outline potential pathways for integration in the table below. These could lay the foundation for determining concrete recommendations or implementation mechanisms through further in-depth analysis by actors closely involved in NWFE.

Table 3: Egypt’s opportunity to increase urban integration in its NWFE

| | |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Background | <p>NWFE is a country platform launched by the Government of Egypt to mobilize climate finance and accelerate the implementation of its NDCs. Structured around three pillars—water, food, and energy—the platform places a strong emphasis on mitigation, particularly through the expansion of renewable energy and grid modernization. NWFE is coordinated by Egypt’s Ministry of Planning and Economic Development in collaboration with key sectoral ministries such as the Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy and international development partners. Each pillar has a designated coordinating institution: energy is led by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), food by the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and water by the African Development Bank. Its governance framework is centralized, and there is currently no formalized role for subnational governments or municipal stakeholders, though some localities may benefit indirectly from national projects.</p> |
| Overview | <p>NWFE targets large-scale infrastructure investments. The energy pillar focuses on scaling renewable energy, upgrading the national grid, and decommissioning fossil fuel assets (NWFE 2023). The food and water pillars support initiatives such as rural irrigation, agricultural resilience, and water supply systems in rural areas (NWFE 2023). It also includes clear targets, such as expanding renewable energy capacity and grid resilience, coordinated with international development partners to accelerate implementation (NWFE 2023).</p> |

Opportunities to increase urban integration

While subnational governments are not formally included in NWFE’s structure, there are complementary urban-focused programs that could serve as entry points. These include [EBRD’s Green Cities program](#) (supporting municipal planning and investment) and the [IFC’s APEX tool](#), which helps benchmark city infrastructure and service delivery. These could support alignment between urban needs and national planning in future iterations.

NWFE offers opportunities to formalize multilevel governance structures within country platforms. Even in centralized systems, there is potential to integrate subnational voices through sectoral working groups, consultation mechanisms, or urban-inclusive investment criteria. Increased urban and subnational integration could happen through the following three options:

- **Integrating subnational governments better into the existing NWFE structure.** National approaches could adopt vertically integrated structures that distinguish between governance contexts (e.g., new cities planned by Egypt’s New Urban Communities Authority vs. older cities). This would require tailored methodologies to coordinate across levels and empower local actors.
- **Adding an additional pillar focusing on urban issues alongside the existing platform.** Sectoral approaches can leverage national authority to align regulations, shift behavior, and coordinate large-scale infrastructure, offering a platform to pilot, refine, and scale multilevel governance solutions.
- **Aggregating city-level platforms.** Local approaches would involve city-led planning aligned with national priorities but would require clear frameworks and decision-making autonomy to be effective within broader climate investment strategies.

3.2 BRAZIL’S CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION INVESTMENT PLATFORM

Brazil offers a timely and strategic example of how country platforms can integrate urban and subnational priorities, particularly in the lead-up to COP30 in Belém. As a federated country with strong subnational institutions, Brazil has the governance capacity to design inclusive and decentralized climate platforms. In 2024, the national government launched the **Climate and Ecological Transformation Investment Platform (BIP)** to accelerate ecological transformation, decarbonization, and inclusive development (GFANZ 2024). The BIP explicitly references cities and subnational governments as key actors, presenting a strong foundation for developing an urban-inclusive country platform.

Table 4: Brazil’s opportunity to increase urban integration in its BIP

| | |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Background | <p>The BIP is a nationally led platform spearheaded by the Ministry of Finance in collaboration with the Ministries of Environment and Climate Change, Mines and Energy, and Industry and Trade. It was launched in 2024 as a tool to bridge funding gaps for the country’s Ecological Transformation Plan (ETP) (BIP 2025). The platform is designed to align international support—including from GFANZ, the Green Climate Fund, Bloomberg Philanthropies, and BNDES—with Brazil’s national development and climate goals (GFANZ 2024). The design is iterative and flexible, presenting an opportunity to further embed strong subnational and urban engagement mechanisms.</p> |
| Overview | <p>The BIP aims to catalyze investment in key sectors prioritized by the ETP, such as bioeconomy, energy, industry, circular economy, and sustainable mobility. Within these sectors, the BIP focuses on accelerating private investment, promoting policy reform, and strengthening national institutions (Ministerio da Fazenda 2024). It emphasizes developing sectoral pipelines and identifying financing barriers to scale low-carbon solutions. While it is not yet clear how investment decisions will be operationalized, the platform has committed to sourcing projects from both public and private actors—including cities and states—particularly for mobility and energy transition (GFANZ 2024). The platform also plans to integrate mechanisms for early-stage project support, which could benefit municipalities with limited capacity.</p> |
| Urban and subnational integration | <p>Brazil’s decentralized governance structure provides an enabling environment for meaningful subnational participation. Cities and states are already central to implementing Brazil’s climate goals through instruments like state-level climate laws, local climate action plans, and participation in programs such as the Resilient Cities Program (FAO Decree 10.241, 2024). The BIP explicitly acknowledges the role of subnational governments and urban actors, though formal structures for their inclusion in platform governance and decision-making are still evolving (Brazil’s NDC submission, 2024). If codified, these could offer a model for other federal countries.</p> |
| Opportunities to increase urban integration | <p>Brazil’s platform design process offers a real-time opportunity to formalize urban integration into platform governance and implementation. The following pathways could support deeper subnational engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brazil’s BIP could be more explicit in addressing subnational priorities by including urban sectoral priorities as an additional pillar within its structure. • Country ownership and local engagement: Brazil could ensure that states and municipalities are represented in the BIP’s steering and technical working groups, aligning local climate priorities with national decarbonization strategies. • Sectoral and cross-sectoral objectives, planning, and execution aligned across levels of government: Brazil could leverage its decentralized policymaking and infrastructure planning mandates to support urban integration within the priority sectors of its ETP. These may include low-carbon urban transport, urban solid waste management, distributed energy, and nature-based solutions, with targeted financial and technical support. • Programmatic approach: could scale initiatives like Programa Cidades Verdes Resilientes (led by the ministries of environment and cities) by linking the municipal climate plans to the national platform through pipeline aggregation and dedicated funding windows. |

3.3 INDIA'S OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE FINANCE FOR CLIMATE ACTION

India presents a promising context for urban integration in country platform structures, owing to its federal governance model, large and growing urban population, and well-established subnational climate frameworks. While India has not yet formalized a single, coordinated country platform for climate finance, it has a diverse ecosystem of national programs and subnational mechanisms that together reflect the building blocks of such a platform. These include targeted national schemes, decentralized financing tools, and alignment efforts between national policies and local climate actions. India's experience offers important insights for designing urban-inclusive country platforms in federal systems where climate action is distributed across multiple levels of government. Table 5 provides this summary.

Table 5: India's opportunity to leverage existing governance frameworks for an urban-inclusive country platform

| | |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Background | India has not yet launched a formal country platform, but its evolving climate finance ecosystem and multilevel governance structure provide a strong foundation for future platform development. |
| Leveraging existing governance frameworks | <p>India's climate finance architecture includes several characteristics that would be conducive for urban integration in a country platform. The federal structure assigns shared responsibilities for climate change governance to both the national and subnational governments. This enables sector-specific coordination (e.g., transport, energy, urban infrastructure) supported by public finance institutions such as the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), and state-owned banks. Several climate-focused investment programs are co-financed with international partners (e.g., the World Bank and Asian Development Bank) and often routed through national programs or state-level mechanisms.</p> <p>Funding mechanisms like the National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) and the Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF), as well as policy tools to strengthen enabling environments, such as CCFLA's Enabling Framework Conditions (EFC) tools, demonstrate India's focus on scaling climate and infrastructural investment at the subnational level. Further, planning instruments like the State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCCs) and city-level climate action plans reflect growing alignment between national and local climate strategies. India's experience illustrates how a decentralized governance model can support distributed climate action and create multiple entry points for scaling urban climate finance.</p> |
| Urban and subnational integration | India's multilevel governance system already positions states and cities as key players in climate action. Many urban development programs—such as the Smart Cities Mission and AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation)—target infrastructure sectors aligned with mitigation and adaptation goals. While states and cities do not participate in a unified country platform, they are critical implementers of national climate priorities. Planning instruments like SAPCCs and city-level plans offer potential alignment mechanisms between national targets and local delivery, but coordination remains fragmented, and access to finance varies widely. |

Opportunities to increase urban integration

India offers important lessons on how to structure future platforms in decentralized systems. A formal country platform could consolidate urban climate priorities and coordinate finance more systematically across sectors and government levels, for example, through:

- **Country ownership and local engagement:** India's federal system could integrate subnational and urban priorities into national climate frameworks such as the NDC and NAFCC. On the financial side, India could also systematically leverage existing initiatives like the UIDF—which promotes multilevel coordination between cities and states—to establish sustained and predictable urban climate finance flows for smaller cities.
- **Sectoral and cross-sectoral objectives, planning, and execution aligned across levels of government:** India could focus on scaling subnational implementation through localizing national schemes in key sectors like transport, energy, and buildings, with dedicated funding and TA for cities.
- **Programmatic approach:** India could empower and support cities to develop robust, financeable climate plans and project pipelines linked to national climate goals. Public financial institutions and international partners could help subnational governments utilize innovative, concessional, and de-risking financial instruments, such as blended finance models, aggregation instruments, credit guarantees, and local currency solutions, along with TA to attract public and private investment.

4. CONCLUSION AND APPLICATIONS TO ONGOING DISCUSSIONS

This paper explores the benefits for countries in integrating urban sectoral priorities and subnational governments within their nascent country platforms. It also presents a framework for creating such urban-inclusive platforms for those countries seeking to do so. This structured approach aims to ensure that urban issues and subnational governments are integrated into country-led climate finance strategies. By addressing governance structures, project-level considerations, and financial mechanisms, the framework aims to overcome barriers that have historically limited subnational access to climate finance.

While country platforms have the potential to mobilize large-scale investments and coordinate national climate goals, their effectiveness can be enhanced through structured urban engagement. The experiences of Egypt, India, Brazil, and Bangladesh highlight the challenges and opportunities of embedding subnational priorities within these national platforms. By fostering multilevel governance, aligning urban investments with national priorities, and enabling direct access to climate finance, these platforms can bridge critical gaps in mobilizing resources for urban climate action.

National governments and stakeholders can use their political authority, convening power, and fiscal capacity to mitigate climate finance challenges subnational governments face. Platforms can align policies and plans across multiple levels of governance, bridge capacity gaps, and foster public-private partnerships to mobilize investments. In doing so, urban-inclusive country platforms can be transformative tools for scaling ambition, leadership, and finance to meet subnational climate goals.

Initial steps to support national governments seeking to improve urban integration in existing or planned country platforms include the following:

- **CCFLA secretariat and its members** could assist interested national governments in understanding the challenges and opportunities of applying the proposed framework to integrating subnational and urban perspectives into these platforms.
- **National governments** could use the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP)⁷ as a strategic tool to enhance urban components in their NDCs and climate strategies. This can lay the groundwork for urban-inclusive country platforms that align with national and global climate targets.
- **MDBs, DFIs, and other supporting partners** can support national governments through their consultation processes to pilot the framework in ongoing country platform discussions, enabling the structured engagement of urban and subnational actors.
- **All actors** can contribute to further research to document lessons learned and best practices for integrating urban climate priorities and subnational governments into

⁷ CHAMP is a commitment taken by national governments on a new way of working in partnership with their subnational governments, and in particular, on a new way of approaching the development and implementation of their next Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in time for COP30 in 2025. See: <https://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org/champ/>.

country platforms. Developing case studies, comparative analyses, and data-driven insights will help refine the framework and inform future country platform designs.

The above steps can enable national governments to leverage urban-inclusive country platforms as a transformative tool for climate finance, ensuring that cities and subnational governments are not just beneficiaries but active partners in national and global climate action.

REFERENCES

1. ACF. 2025. Country Platform Exchange Agenda. Unpublished.
2. ADB. 2024. Operationalizing the Bangladesh Climate Development Partnership: Technical Assistance Report. [accessed 2025 Apr 9]. <https://www.adb.org/projects/documents/ban-58271-001-tar>.
3. BMZ. 2025. Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) with Senegal. Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany). <https://www.bmz.de/resource/blob/246472/factsheet-jetp-senegal-en.pdf>.
4. CCFLA. 2024a. 2024 State of Cities Climate Finance. Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance & Climate Policy Initiative. [accessed 2024 Oct 14]. <https://citiesclimatefinance.org/publications/2024-state-of-cities-climate-finance>.
5. CCFLA. 2024b. Blog | One year of the Project Preparation Facility Connector (PPF Connector). Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance. [accessed 2025 Jan 30]. <https://citiesclimatefinance.org/publications/blog-one-year-of-the-project-preparation-facility-connector>.
6. CPI. 2024. JETP Resource Mobilization Plan: How Viet Nam can turn ambition into action. Climate Policy Initiative. [accessed 2025 Mar 11]. <https://www.climatepolicyinitiative.org/jetp-resource-mobilization-plan-how-viet-nam-can-turn-ambition-into-action/>.
7. G20. 2020. G20 Reference Framework for Effective Country Platforms. Group of Twenty. <https://www.mof.gov.cn/en/Cooperation/mulid/202011/P020201104581749367491.pdf>.
8. GFANZ. 2024. Brazil Climate and Ecological Transformation Investment Platform Launches to Help Deliver Brazil's Ambitious Development and Climate Goals | Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero. [accessed 2025 Apr 14]. <https://www.gfanzero.com/press/brazil-climate-and-ecological-transformation-investment-platform-launches-to-help-deliver-brazils-ambitious-development-and-climate-goals/>.
9. Gilmour A, Tanaka J, Colenbrander S. 2024. Designing and governing country platforms - What role for the MDBs? ODI. https://media.odi.org/documents/Designing_and_governing_country_platforms_OE5SVfw.pdf.
10. Group of MDBs. 2024. Country Platforms for Climate Action - MDB statement of common understanding and way forward. <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/related/758326/MDBs-Country-Platforms-for-Climate-Action.pdf>.
11. IPCC. 2022. Urban Systems and Other Settlements. In: Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change. Contribution of Working Group III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGIII_Chapter08.pdf.

12. IPCC. 2023. National and Sub-national Policies and Institutions. In: Climate Change 2022 - Mitigation of Climate Change. 1st ed. Cambridge University Press. p. 1355–1450. [accessed 2025 Mar 3]. https://www.cambridge.org/core/product/identifier/9781009157926%23c13/type/book_part.
13. NDC Partnership. 2020. Insight Brief: Engaging Subnational Governments in Climate Action Lessons Learned from the NDC Partnership Support Unit. NDC Partnership. <https://ndcpartnership.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/engagling-subnational-governments-climate-actioninsight-briefmarch-2020.pdf>.
14. NWFE. 2023. NWFE - Egypt's Nexus of Water, Food and Energy, from pledges to implementation - Progress Report No.1. Ministry of International Cooperation, Egypt. <https://mmd-moic.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/files/English%20Spread%20-%20NWFE%20Report%202023.pdf>.
15. Tanaka J, Garnak A, Orozco D. 2024. Country Climate and Development Investment Platforms. <https://climaesociedade.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/G20-support-paper-on-platforms45.pdf>.
16. Tanaka J, Gilmour A. 2025. Developing Country Platforms. ODI Think Change. [accessed 2025 Apr 9]. <https://odi.org/en/insights/developing-country-platforms/>.
17. Under2 MoU. 2025. Under2 Memorandum of Understanding. Clim Group. [accessed 2025 Apr 7]. <https://www.theclimategroup.org/under2-memorandum-understanding>.
18. UN-Habitat. 2024. Urban Content of NDCs: Local climate action explored through in-depth country analyses: 2024 Report (advance copy). United Nations Human Settlements Programme. [accessed 2024 Jun 18]. <https://unhabitat.org/urban-content-of-ndcs-local-climate-action-explored-through-in-depth-country-analyses-2024-report>.
19. World Bank. 2022. The role of subnational governments in combating climate change. World Bank Blogs. [accessed 2025 Mar 3]. <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/governance/role-subnational-governments-combating-climate-change>.

ANNEX

EXISTING AND EMERGING COUNTRY PLATFORMS

Table A.1: Additional information on existing and emerging country platforms at the time of publication

| COUNTRY PLATFORM | AIM | SECTORAL FOCUS |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Brazil Climate and Ecological Transformation Investment Platform (BIP) | Expanding investments in ecological transformation toward the decarbonization of the economy, the sustainable use of resources and the improvement of the quality of life of the population. ⁸ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature-based solutions • Bioeconomy • Industry and mobility • Energy |
| Bangladesh Climate Development Partnership (BCDP) | Maximizing the implementation of climate actions and being recognized by the global community as an important modality to deliver climate actions at scale. ⁹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture • Climate and Disaster Resilience • Natural Resources • Rural Development |
| Egypt's Nexus for Water, Food and Energy (NWFE+) | Mobilizing climate finance and private investments to support Egypt's green transition, reflecting the interlinkages and complementarity between climate action and development efforts. ¹⁰ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water • Food • Energy • Transport |
| Just Energy Transition Partnership (JET-P), Indonesia | Accelerating Indonesia's transition to renewable energy, phasing out coal power while ensuring a just transition for affected communities, and contributing to the global effort to limit warming to 1.5°C. ¹¹ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power sector decarbonization • Energy efficiency • Renewable energy • Energy access • Just transition |

⁸ <https://www.gov.br/fazenda/pt-br/acao-a-informacao/acoes-e-programas/transformacao-ecologica/bip/brazil-climate-and-ecological-transformation-platform>

⁹ <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/58271/58271-001-tar-en.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://moic.gov.eg/page/nwfe>

¹¹ <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100421665.pdf>

| COUNTRY PLATFORM | AIM | SECTORAL FOCUS |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Just Energy Transition Partnership (JET-P), South Africa | Accelerating South Africa's energy transition by expanding renewables, phasing out fossil fuels and shaping a socially just transition. ¹² | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power sector decarbonization • New energy vehicles • Green hydrogen • Just transition • Skills • Municipalities¹³ |
| Just Energy Transition Partnership (JET-P), Senegal | Achieving universal access to energy and consolidating a low-carbon, resilient and sustainable energy system. ¹⁴ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable energy • Just transition |
| Just Energy Transition Partnership (JET-P), Vietnam | Reaching peak greenhouse gas emissions by 2035, limiting coal-fired generation capacity and accelerating renewable energy. ¹⁵ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power sector decarbonization • Renewable energy • Energy efficiency • Transport decarbonization • Just transition |

¹² <https://www.bmz.de/resource/blob/246476/factsheet-jetp-southafrica-en.pdf>

¹³ https://media.odi.org/documents/Designing_and_governing_country_platforms_OE5SVfw.pdf

¹⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_3448

¹⁵ <https://www.climatepolicyinitiative.org/jetp-resource-mobilization-plan-how-viet-nam-can-turn-ambition-into-action/>

citiesclimatefinance.org