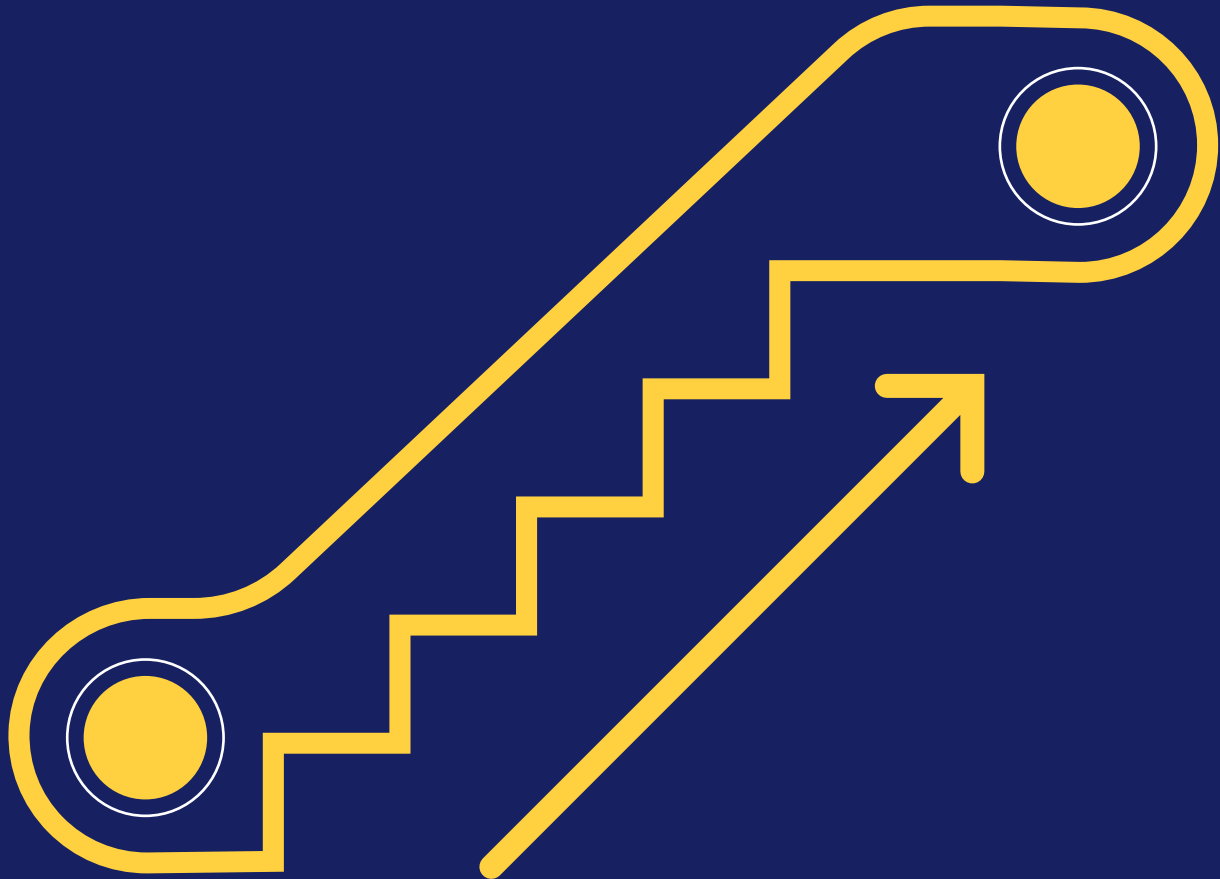


COUNTRY PLATFORM DEVELOPMENT NOTE¹



Country platforms have emerged as ‘instruments for national governments to advance specific transformational goals in priority areas with international support’² accelerating and scaling-up climate and development investment.

Building on the outcomes of the Brazilian G20 Presidency and of COP29 in relation to the NCQG, the concept is set to gain momentum through 2025 in the context of both the South Africa G20 Presidency and COP30 processes on the ‘Road from Baku to Belem’.

This note provides a concise and practical outline of the new generation country platform development process to move from concept to practice. It is intended to suggest a broad operational framework which can stimulate debate. Comments are welcomed and can be sent to a.gilmour@odi.org.

¹ This note has been prepared by Josué Tanaka, Archie Gilmour and Stefan Raubenheimer, with the support of ODI Global, for the Country Platform Exchange and the Finance in Common Summit held in Cape Town from 24 to 28 February 2025.

² Gilmour, A., Tanaka, J. and Colenbrander, S. (2024) ‘Designing and governing country platforms’. ODI Global.

Definition

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.’³

Principles

While ‘no one size fits all,’ with each platform reflecting specific country circumstances, some common principles can be highlighted. The ‘G20 Reference Framework for Effective Country Platforms’⁴ identified voluntary principles including that country platforms should be **country-owned and -led** instruments for sustainable development; designed and implemented in line with **national priorities**; adapted to local context and needs; should **mobilise** a wide range of development partners and improve **coordination** among partners; and should monitor progress for **impact**.

Furthermore, the input paper on country platforms prepared for the Task Force for the Global Mobilisation against Climate Change during the Brazilian G20 Presidency highlighted three important design and implementation principles: strong **country ownership**; high **connectivity** with financing sources; and **flexibility** to adapt to goals, country context and evolving circumstances.⁵

Benefits

- **Achievement of a country’s own priorities** through political agreement and ownership.
- **Integration** of policy, investment and capacity building activity.
- Enhanced **financial mobilisation** from both public and private sources with high external visibility.
- Improved **collaboration and coordination** both within country and among external partners to scale up finance.
- Clear and transparent **link between finance and impact**.

Lessons learnt

Experience to date shows that successful platforms are:

- **Led** at the highest level of government, and aligned with a country’s overall development and economic strategy.
- **Catalytic**, using scarce public resources to mobilise finance at scale from a variety of sources.
- **Programmatic**, combining practical plans and quick wins with longer term systemic reforms.
- **Inclusive**, seeking to mobilise the full capacity of the country to achieve the platform transition goal.

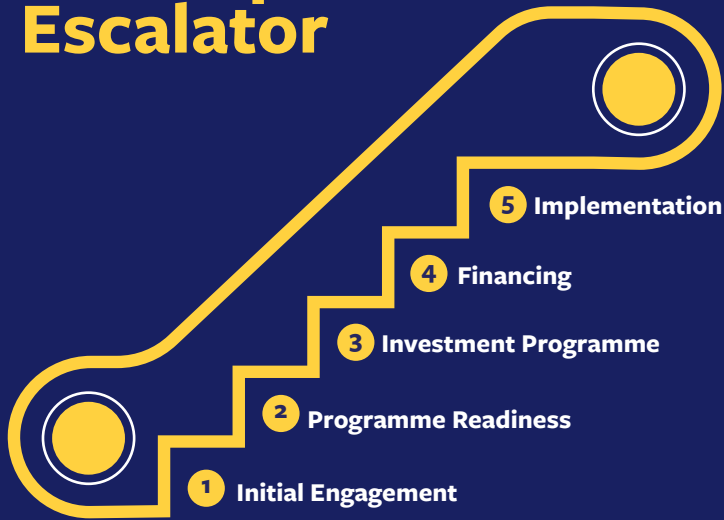
The next page introduces the country platform development ‘escalator’ including five main stages to move from initial country engagement to implementation and results. While there can be variations in the timing of specific tasks, the five stages described in the following pages reflect the general trajectory and work underpinning the development and implementation of a country platform.

3 G20 Saudi Arabia (2020) ‘G20 reference framework for effective country platforms.’

4 Ibid.

5 Tanaka, J., Garnak, A., Orozco, D. (2024) ‘Country climate and development investment platforms’. Instituto Clima e Sociedade (iCS).

Country Platform Development Escalator



1 Initial Engagement



3 Investment Programme



2 Programme Readiness



4 Financing



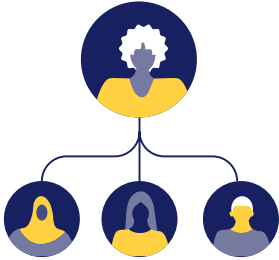
5 Implementation





Stage 1: Initial Engagement

Consolidating early country interest in taking a country platform approach to achieve specific national priority climate and development objective.



Institutional Structure

- High level, cross-government intention and engagement underpinning initial country platform development.
- Dedicated team within government, possibly backed up with capacity from external supporters to form initial institutional base for country platform development.

Tasks and technical work

- High level government consideration of country platform approach to address priority goal emerging from national plans such as LTS, NDC, NAP, economic sector transformation plan – defining country platform purpose and motive.
- Initial dialogue involving government, civil society and business stakeholders.
- Initial dialogue with prospective country platform financing partners.
- High level country platform outline including: stated goal, expected benefits, indicative benchmarks and intermediary milestones, estimated financing requirement, political economy overview and stakeholder mapping.
- Definition of tasks and technical work for stage 2.



Stakeholders

- Government leadership.
- Sectoral ministries and institutions.
- National development bank and MDBs.
- Key sectoral players.
- Key community organisations active in potential platform area.
- Funders of initial country platform formulation.

Financing sources

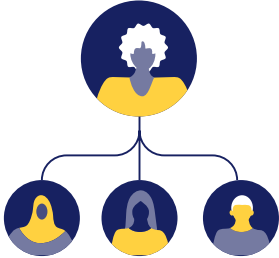
- Early stage quick response funding to provide country support for initial country platform engagement, including technical advisors and early engagement with community of practice.
- Gauging appetite of potential funders to assess platform resource mobilisation outlook.
- National government resources including dedicated staff.





Stage 2: Programme Readiness

Setting the organisational, policy and technical underpinning of the platform.



Institutional Structure

- Specific government structure providing clear leadership.
- Technical working groups, including local institutions and external experts where needed.
- Partner organisations (NDB, MDBs etc) may set up dedicated structures.

Tasks and technical work

- Set robust political agreement for country platform development and implementation.
- Institutional structure readiness, including allocation of responsibilities for planning and decision-making, and set-up of workstream(s) to achieve platform goals – embedding workstream in legal framework to enhance platform robustness, if needed.
- Agreement between government and international partners on platform goal and indicative finance engagement.
- Technical readiness work including:
 - transition plan supporting country platform goal
 - identification of existing barriers to platform goal
 - economic modelling and fiscal/debt aspects
 - policy reform to support platform objectives
 - analysis to prioritise and sequence programme milestones, including possible trigger projects
 - political economy analysis for stakeholders and just transition.
 - identification of types of financing.
- Stakeholder readiness: civil society, sector players and prospective local and external financing partners interested in country platform.



Stakeholders

- Ministry of finance and sectoral ministries.
- Funding partners for programme readiness stage.
- Engage range of technical experts including civil society, business and academia.
- Prospective international and institutional partners.

Financing sources

- Country platform preparation funding, including GCF Readiness and other multilateral and bilateral funds.
- Government resources.
- Philanthropy.





Stage 3: Investment Programme

Formulation of the investment programme reflecting scale and sequencing of projects to achieve platform goal.



Institutional Structure

Specific platform structures to build on existing institutional base from stage 2. Examples may include:

- A national task force with an inter-ministerial committee to maintain government leadership and oversight.
- A coordination structure, like a platform secretariat, to coordinate across different platform functions including leadership and oversight, technical working groups, finance partners and project developers. This may be hosted within a ministry, NDB, or other national institution, funded either through government resources or partner funds.

Tasks and technical work

- Detailed investment planning including project pipeline development and sequencing of projects to achieve stated platform goals.
- Detailed project preparation.
- Ensure just transition activities are planned and costed in.
- Financing strategy including identification of public and private investment opportunities, systemic reform and innovative finance approaches.



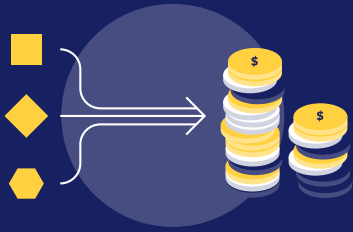
Stakeholders

- Ministry of finance and sectoral ministries.
- Institutional support partners such as MDBs and NDBs.
- Civil society and private sector included in formal working groups to provide inputs to investment plan.
- Technical assistance providers.
- Potential financing partners.

Financing sources

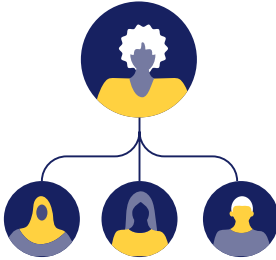
- Country platform preparation funding, including GCF Readiness and other multilateral and bilateral funds.
- Government resources.
- Philanthropy.





Stage 4: Financing

Mobilisation of financing from public and private, local and external financing sources to build the country platform capital stack.



Institutional Structure

- Platform institutional structure to play key role in linking individual projects with financing partners.
- Formal mechanisms can be set up to support this function, such as the matchmaking Funding Platform in the South African JETP.

Tasks and technical work

- Packaging and promotion of platform investment opportunities including financial structuring and coordination with national treasury functions.
- Convening of financing sources to support country platform investment programme and capital stack. Many financial partners should already be involved from earlier stages including private finance, international public finance partners or development banks.
- Access to concessional finance and grant use optimisation.
- Development of blended finance instruments to enhance terms of finance, derisking and scale of private finance mobilisation.



Stakeholders

- Ministry of finance and sectoral ministries and organisations.
- Public and private organisations involved in project development and implementation.
- Public and private finance institutions (see financing sources).
- Civil society for just transition financing.

Financing sources

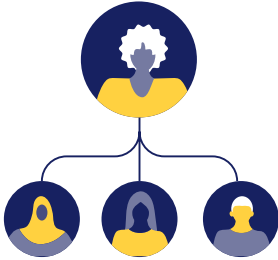
- Mobilisation of country platform finance with relative share of public, concessional, grant and private finance varying according to country, sector and project type.
- Domestic local currency finance including public sources, private banks/markets and public development banks
- External finance including MDBs, bilateral PDBs, private finance and climate funds.





Stage 5: Implementation

Translation of investment plan into set of implemented projects, policies and capacity building activities leading to platform outcomes and impact.



Institutional Structure

- Institutional structure including the set of organisations involved in coordinating and managing implementation of platform components such as line departments in the public sector.
- Dedicated transparent monitoring and reporting mechanisms to track implementation progress and assess impact.

Tasks and technical work

- Implementation of platform components including projects, policies and capacity building activities.
- Sustain political alignment and support.
- Disbursement of funds by individual financing sources.
- Civil society ongoing engagement across implementation cycle.
- Monitoring, evaluation, reporting through institutional structure, including benchmark tracking towards platform goals.
- Possible South-South cooperation to support other countries interested in establishing their own platforms.
- Capacity-building among partners for projects with slower starts.



Stakeholders

- Country implementing agencies.
- Private sector entities.
- Financing institutions.
- Technical assistance providers.
- Civil society in affected communities.

Financing sources

- Domestic public finance.
- External concessional finance.
- MDBs and PDBs.
- Domestic and external private finance.
- Platform institutional structure funded through government own resources, MDB/NDB support, philanthropy.

