



# Instructor's Guide

## Short course 1: *Fundamentals of Climate Finance*

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## Overview

This instructor's guide introduces the course, provides context for the material in this course, and emphasises particular key junctures related to aiding the instructor in explaining the content. The instructor's guide also elaborates how the course modules have been structured, how these modules contribute to the overall objectives of the course, and how this course should be taught in the context of providing capacity strengthening on climate finance for government officials and other experts who may benefit from the material offered in this course.

## Why this course?

The *Fundamentals of Climate Finance* course unpacks the climate finance landscape, in the broader context of the UNFCCC process. The climate negotiations and finance landscape is becoming increasingly complex: new financing schemes are emerging that are relevant to LDCs, such as the Loss and Damage fund, and existing schemes (such as the Green Climate Fund, GEF, and Adaptation Fund) are inherently complex in how they structure financing, with stipulations that require careful consideration during proposal development.

This course is designed to provide a foundational understanding of climate finance, including climate finance flows from developed to developing countries, financial mechanisms, and challenges to accessing adequate financing for climate change adaptation. The aim of the course is to equip learners with the necessary information, knowledge, and understanding of climate finance and climate finance flows & instruments, and financial mechanisms available for developing countries to access climate finance for adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage. By focusing on the historic arc of climate negotiations and the array of multilateral climate financing generated through the negotiation process, this course sets the stage for detailed exploration on important aspects of climate finance with respect to the other four short courses in this series.

## What will be achieved by this course?

- Increased understanding on historical context of climate change negotiations and how countries negotiate under the UNFCCC process
- Enhanced understanding of fundamental of climate finance, global climate finance flows, instruments, adaptation finance gaps, and state of climate finance in the negotiation
- Increased understanding of the financial mechanisms, programming priorities for development of concept note and project proposals, and key challenges and barriers to access climate finance

## Who is expected to take this course?

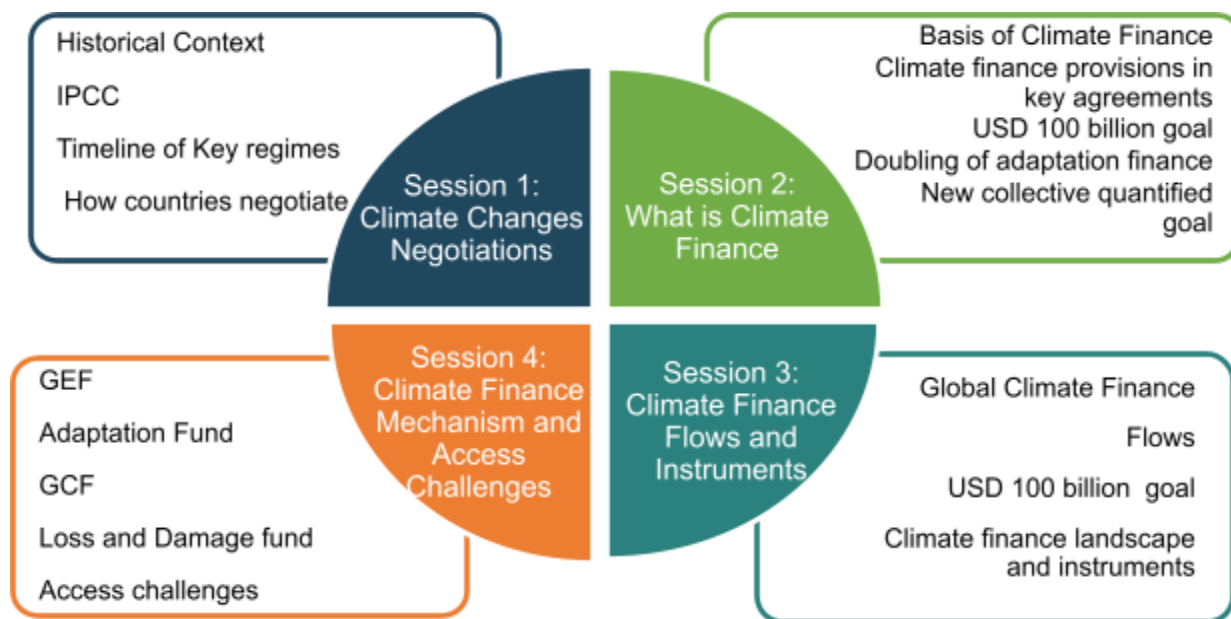
This course is targeted at governmental officials, and non-governmental agencies and organisations. It is particularly oriented to officials involved in climate change negotiations, development of climate related project-proposals and programmes, and their implementation.

## How long is the course?

The total time required to complete the course is estimated to be **three (3) hours**.

## What to find in this course and where?

The content of the *Fundamentals of Climate Finance* course responds to the objectives and outcomes of the course as illustrated in figure 1. The course is comprised of four sessions:



**Figure 1: Course Sessions**

## Structure of the instructor's guide

For the instructor's guide, each of the four sessions is made up of the following:

- ❑ **Introduction** that provides an overview of the session and its objectives.
- ❑ **Learning objectives** for the session, stating what the participant can expect to learn in the session.
- ❑ **Timing:** a breakdown of the specific activities and time allocation for each of them in the session.

- ❓ **Guidance on use of slides** provides information that is needed by the trainer in deciphering messages from the slides as well as an indication on which of the slides may need attention or specific action to be taken during engagements.
- **Exercises:** this section indicates the type of exercises to be taken for the session and possible answers, as well as indications of where they can be placed during the session.

## Modalities of course delivery

This course employs a diversity of methods, including lectures (PowerPoint and informal engagement) and participatory sessions (e.g. group work, pair work and discussions, brainstorming and exercises).

### 1. Plenary lectures

The plenary sessions are designed to be structured around the Powerpoint presentation, which is in-turn structured around the course workbook. During lectures, the facilitator should encourage active participation and discussion around the introduced concepts and topics, and is encouraged to elicit discussion and field questions. In addition to presenting course content, the plenary sessions are meant to encourage participants to brainstorm and debate on concepts and issues extensively as a precursor to any presentations that are given.

### 2. Exercises

Exercises are designed to elicit participation in small-group work or paired work, as well as individual reflection moments, that serve to unpack key concepts. In some cases, the exercises will be questions, in other cases they will be discussion questions for exploration that provide a sense of the level of understanding gained from the session. In addition to guiding the participants through the exercises, the facilitator should also be able to address any misconceptions and misunderstandings of the concepts.

### 3. Group work

Group engagements during the sessions are designed to encourage deeper exploration and investigation on focus areas arising from the facilitator. Group work engagement should be designed to enable an environment of critical thinking as well as sharing of lessons from different contexts.

# Sessions

## SESSION ONE: CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATIONS

Slides 6–10 of the PowerPoint and pages 6–12 of the workbook

**Note:** It is recommended that the instructor review the relevant workbook pages prior to conducting the training session.

### Introduction

This session provides an extensive background of the climate change negotiation in the UN climate change process. It helps learners to understand the historical context of climate change negotiation and how countries negotiate under the UNFCCC process.

### Learning objectives

On completion of the session, participants are expected to be able to understand:

- the origins of climate change negotiation and its evolution over the years to address climate change issues.
- how countries negotiate in the UN climate change negotiation process and influence the decision of negotiated outcomes.

### Session approach

The session will largely employ PowerPoint presentations to explain the historical background of the UN climate change and its evolutions over the years, negotiation process and its complexity. This will be followed by an exercise.

A roleplay exercise to simulate the UNFCCC negotiations is outlined below but it is optional depending on the availability of time

### Timing

Powerpoint presentation: 30 minutes

Plenary discussion: 15 minutes

Simulation exercise(*optional*): 60 minutes

### Guidance on the use of slides

The resource material for these slides can be found in the workbook version of the course. That information is intended to aid the instructor in expanding on messages from the slides. Brief explanations of key talking points (take-home messages) of select slides are included below; these are the slides for which more explanation is needed.

**Slide 6:** Before explaining the assessment reports of the IPCC, it may be important to explain about IPCC, its role as scientific arm of the UNFCCC and how it contributes to the development of climate policies of the government at various levels. Further, highlight IPCC's work on the regular assessments of the scientific, technical and socio-economic knowledge about climate change, its impact and future risks, and strategies for adaptation and mitigation, that often serve as basis for climate change negotiation and climate actions. For example, the Conference of Parties invited IPCC to provide a special report in 2018 on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathway. This special report became the basis for efforts to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C. More details on IPCC is provided in the workbook of the course.

**Slide 7:** Explain the findings of the first assessment report of the IPCC saying that human activities have been substantially increasing the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases and these will result on average in an additional warming of the Earth's surface and atmosphere and may adversely affect natural ecosystems and humankind. Such findings have led to the World Climate Conference call for a global treaty. The UNFCCC was adopted in 1992 at the UN headquarters in New York. The ultimate objective of the UNFCCC is to: stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, and allow ecosystem to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.

## Group exercise option

### Option 1: Reflecting Questions



What are the roles of IPCC and why is the IPCC important in climate change negotiations?



How could countries and negotiating groups leverage scientific data and local knowledge to strengthen their position in the climate change negotiation?

The facilitator may engage the group or break out the group into small groups to discuss the above two questions. The purpose of the exercise is to enhance understanding of the role of IPCC, as scientific arm of the UNFCCC and how scientific findings of the IPCC influence decision of the climate change negotiations, as well as in policy formulation of governments at various levels, and support access climate finance for climate actions at the national and local levels.

The second question allows participants to brainstorm on how countries and negotiating groups could leverage scientific data, information and knowledge including local and indigenous knowledge to strengthen positions in the climate change negotiations as well as preparation of project proposals to access climate finance. The participants will learn more on climate science in short course 4- fundamentals of developing a climate rationale.

## Optin 2: A Simulation / role players

A simulation of climate change negotiation is provided below, but this is optional depending on the target participants and time availability.

### **TITLE: UNFCCC Negotiation Simulation**

**Objective:** To simulate the negotiation process within the UNFCCC framework and gain insight into the complexities and challenges of international climate negotiations.

#### **Materials Needed:**

- Background information on the UNFCCC and its key components
- Role descriptions for different negotiating parties (e.g., developed countries, developing countries, LDCs, NGOs)
- Mock negotiation scenarios representing different aspects of climate change (e.g., emission reduction targets, global goal on adaptation, financial support, technology transfer)
- Flip charts or whiteboards, Markers, Timer

#### **Instructions:**

1. Introduction (5 minutes):
  - Provide an overview of the UNFCCC and its objectives.
  - Explain the roles of different negotiating parties and their interests in the process.
2. Role Assignment (5 minutes):
  - Assign roles to participants based on their interests or preferences. Roles may include representatives from developed countries, developing countries, LDCs, NGOs, and observer organisations.
3. Background Research (10 minutes):
  - Allow participants time to research their assigned roles, including their country's or organisation's stance on key issues, priorities, and goals.
4. Negotiation Rounds (30 minutes):
  - Conduct 2 negotiation rounds, each focusing on a specific aspect of climate change (e.g., adaptation, finance).
  - Set a time limit for each round (e.g., 10-15 minutes) to simulate the time pressure of real negotiations.
  - Encourage participants to engage in diplomatic negotiations, make compromises, and advocate for their interests while considering the perspectives of other parties.



- Facilitate discussions and address any conflicts or disagreements that arise during the negotiation rounds.
5. Debrief (15 minutes):
    - Facilitate a debrief session to reflect on the simulation experience.
    - Discuss the challenges faced during the negotiation process, including conflicting interests, power dynamics, and the need for consensus-building.
    - Reflect on the role of different stakeholders in advancing climate action and the importance of cooperation and collaboration in achieving global climate goals.
    - Invite participants to share their key takeaways and lessons learned from the simulation.
  6. Conclusion (5 minutes):
    - Summarise the main insights gained from the simulation and emphasise the importance of ongoing dialogue and cooperation in addressing climate change

## SESSION TWO: WHAT IS CLIMATE FINANCE?

Slides 11–21 of the PowerPoint and pages 13–22 of the workbook

**Note:** It is recommended that the instructor review the relevant workbook pages prior to conducting the training session.

### Introduction

This session provides basic understanding of climate finance, climate finance provisions in the Convention and the Paris Agreement, and state of climate finance in the negotiation to support implementation of the Paris Agreement and the Convention.

### Learning objectives

On completion of the session, participants will be able to understand:

- the basics of climate finance.
- climate finance provisions in the Convention and Paris Agreement
- state of climate finance in the negotiations

### Session approach

This session will begin by showing a video on basics of climate finance followed by an exercise at the plenary or small-group discussion to provoke thinking and level of understanding of climate finance by the facilitator. The facilitator will then start the Powerpoint presentations providing overview of climate finance.

### Timing

Video and plenary discussion: 15 minutes

Powerpoint presentation: 20 minutes

Group exercise: 15 minutes

### Guidance on the use of slides

The resource material for these slides can be found in the workbook version of the course. That information is intended to aid the instructor in expanding on messages from the slides. Brief explanations of key talking points (take-home messages) of select slides are included below; these are the slides for which more explanation is needed.

**Slide 12:** After watching the video on ‘What is Climate Finance’ the following questions are provided for plenary discussion. Some possible answers are provided below for reference for the facilitator.

- Do you agree or disagree that the polluters should pay both for mitigation and adaptation of climate change?
  - Polluters should pay for both mitigation and adaptation of climate change. This is about climate justice. The developing countries in particular LDCs and SIDS have contributed least to the cause of climate change but bearing the brunt of climate change impacts. LDCs and SIDS are in the frontline of the climate crisis with least capacity and limited resources to address the adverse impacts of climate change. There is a historical obligation for developed countries to the developing countries to support implementation of climate actions.
- Why did the video say that climate finance should mostly be grants? Do you agree or disagree with this point of view?
  - Agree that climate finance should mostly be granted as this is about historical responsibility and the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances. The vulnerable countries and communities must be supported grant-based public finance at scale and easy access to address climate change.
- Why would Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) pursue loans or equity over grants for climate actions?
  - The LDCs and SIDS must be provided grants for climate actions, mitigation, adaptation and responding to loss and damage. LDCs and SIDS should not be taking loans or equity for climate actions. However, in some areas where there is potential for private sector engagement and innovation, it might be worth taking concessional loans or equity in particular for mitigation actions such as renewable energy, green industrial development, green transport development etc.

**Slide 13:** It is important to highlight the importance of having a common definition of climate finance. LDCs have been pushing to have a common definition of climate finance in the climate finance negotiation. Without a commonly agreed definition of climate finance, it is difficult to account what is climate finance and what is not. In accordance with Article 4, paragraph 3 of the Convention, developing countries are of the view that developed country Parties shall provide new and additional financial resources to meet full cost incurred by developing country Parties. However, in the absence of a common definition of climate finance, the USD 100 billion per year by 2020 goal clearly shows that around 68% of the public climate finance provided through bilateral and multilateral channels are loans, and grant accounts only around 30% in 2021.

Refer workbook of the short course on the background of the Standing Committee on Finance and reports published on Definition of Climate Finance.

**Slide 14:** Highlight the principles of “common but differentiated responsibility and respective capability” as enshrined in the Convention and the Paris Agreement, developed country Parties

are to provide financial resources to assist the developing country Parties in implementing the objectives of the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

**Slide 16-18:** Climate finance and the USD 100 billion goal. Key takeaway messages include:

- Developed countries' commitment of USD 100 billion per year by 2020 goal has not been met in 2021.
- Public climate finance provided bilaterally and through multilateral channels reached USD73.2 billion in 2021. However, the majority is provided through loans (68%, USD49.6 billion), and grant accounts only 30% (USD20.2 billion), while equity investment remained marginal.
- Mitigation represents the majority (60%) of total climate finance provided and mobilised, adaptation accounts only 27% and cross-cutting 13%.

**Slide 19:** There is an imbalance between mitigation and adaptation finance. It may be good to stress that the adaptation is under-financed and the need for adaptation is urgently growing as the climate crisis unfolds and worsens the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable communities.

## Group exercises



Why do you think a common climate finance definition is important under the climate regime?



Why do you think a common definition for climate finance is so difficult to establish? What implication do you think it will have on setting the NCQG?

The facilitator could decide to carry out this exercise either into small groups or collect one answer on each question from each participant and discuss it in plenary. The idea is to brainstorm and broaden understanding on the definition of climate finance. Why is it important to have a common climate finance definition, why is it difficult to agree on a common climate finance definition and what are the implications without a common definition?

Some possible answers for reference for the facilitator include:

Why do you think a common climate finance definition is important under the climate regime?

- developed country Parties shall provide financial resources to assist developing country Parties with respect to both mitigation and adaptation.
- Climate finance should be new and additional to ODA (Official Development Assistance). ODA should not be repackaged as climate finance.
- without a common definition of climate finance, it is difficult to account what is climate finance and what is not.

- necessary for accounting , reporting and monitoring progress of climate finance provided and mobilised by developed countries to developing countries.

Why do you think a common definition for climate finance is so difficult to establish? What implication do you think it will have on setting the NCQG?

- there should be willingness from the developed country Parties to establish a common definition of climate finance.
- methodological and technical challenges can be sorted out
- weak transparency arrangements
- Lack of trust between developed and developing country Parties

## SESSION THREE: GLOBAL CLIMATE FINANCE FLOWS AND INSTRUMENTS

Slides 22-30 of the PowerPoint and pages 23-30 of the workbook

**Note:** It is recommended that the instructor review the relevant workbook pages prior to conducting the training session.

### Introduction

Building on the learning process from the previous session (basics of climate finance, obligations under the Convention and Paris Agreement and the state of climate finance in the negotiations) this session takes us to yet another important discussion on the global climate finance flows and instrument — an overview of climate finance flows from developed to developing countries, global climate finance flows trends and gaps, and instruments to channel climate finance to developing countries for mitigation and adaptation actions.

### Learning objectives

On completion of the session, participants will be able to:

- Broaden their understanding of climate finance flows from developed to developing countries, climate finance flows trends, gaps, as well as instruments, and channels of climate finance flows to support mitigation and adaptation actions in developing countries.

### Session approach

The session will largely employ a Powerpoint presentation that provides visual graphs and figures to show the landscape of climate finance flows from developed to developing countries, including instruments and channels.

## Timing

Powerpoint presentation: 20 minutes

Group exercise: 25 minutes

## Guidance on use of slides

The resource material for these slides can be found in the workbook version of the course. That information is intended to aid the instructor in expanding on messages from the slides. Brief explanations of key talking points (take-home messages) of select slides are included below; these are the slides for which more explanation is needed.

**Slide 23:** The facilitator may highlight that the global climate finance flows in 2019/2020 amounts to USD 803 billion, as per the SCF report. In that mitigation remains the largest share of the climate finance flows and largely driven by investment in clean energy, energy efficiency in building, and sustainable transport. Adaptation finance share remains very low USD 49 billion in 2019/2020 (around 6% of the global climate finance flows). The key message is there is an imbalance between mitigation and adaptation. Support for adaptation remains very low compared to mitigation as shown in the global climate finance flows.

**Slide 24:** Similarly, OECD report on the delivery of USD 100 billion from developed to developing countries amounts to USD 89.9 billion in 2021. In that too, mitigation accounts 60% of the total finance mobilised and provided from developed to developing countries, adaptation accounts only 27% , and cross-cutting account 13%, of the total finance flows.

**Slide 25:** In the same vein, the Climate Policy Initiative estimated that the global climate finance flows annual average reached USD 1.3 trillion in 2021/2022. Mitigation investment reached USD 1.2 trillion (92%) whereas adaptation finance amounted to USD 62 billion (5%) and cross cutting amounted to USD 41 billion (3%).

While there is clear provision (Article 9.4) of the Paris Agreement that scale-up financial resources should aim to achieve a balance between adaptation and mitigation, taking into account country-driven strategies, and priorities and needs of the developing country Parties, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and have significant capacity constraints, such as the LDCs and SIDs, it has not been achieved. The global climate finance flows estimated by institutions (such as SCF, OECD, CPI, etc) clearly shows the imbalance between adaptation and mitigations. Adaptation finance falls far short of mitigation.

**Slide 28-29:** While explaining the slide, it might be important to stress on the financial instruments used in channelling funds from developed to developing countries. While there is a clear obligation for developed countries to support developing countries in climate actions, the financial resources channel to the developing countries are mostly in the form of loans, and that too mostly at market rate. The OECD report on the progress of the USD 100 billion goal, and CPI

report on the global finance flows clearly shows that loan was the most common financial instrument used to channel climate finance globally, followed by equity and then grants. The findings of the CPI 2023 report on the Global Climate Finance Flows are provided below:

- Debt was the most common financial instrument used to channel climate finance globally (USD 766 billion or 61%), followed by equity (USD 422 billion or 33%) and grant (USD 69 billion or 5%) of USD1.3 trillion.
- Of the total debt finance, USD 561 billion or 53% was provided at market rate, and only 11% was provided at concessional rate.
- Low cost project level debt constituted only 6% of the track climate finance and reached USD 76 billion in 2021/2022.
- Debt burden and debt sustainability remains a huge concern for developing countries and LDCs in particular.

## Group Exercises



What are the main sources of climate finance, and how do they differ in terms of scale and access to the developing countries?



What do you think are the three most pressing challenges for securing climate finance for implementing NDCs, NAPs and LTS in your own country and why?



Given that major climate financial flow are often through market rate loans, how can climate finance achieve fairness and justice for developing countries, in particular LDCs and SIDs.

The facilitator may deploy group work of three groups discussing each of the above questions. Once the group work is completed, the group may present at the plenary and invite views and inputs from other groups. This would help to save time, at the same time allow for inclusive participation, as well as sharing lessons and experiences from different contexts.

Some possible answers are noted below for reference for the facilitator, but not necessarily these are the only and correct answers.

What are the main sources of climate finance, and how do they differ in terms of scale and access to the developing countries.

- sources could include, public fund (bilateral and multilateral), private fund mobilised through public finance, domestic and international

- grant-based public finance is usually small scale and difficult to access. For example, GCF. Whereas loans through bilateral and multilateral financial institutions are at scale and accessible.

What do you think are the most pressing challenges for securing climate finance for implementing NCDs, NAPs and LTS in your country and why?

- complex process and stringent requirements. For example, GCF
- Inadequate coordination at the national and local level
- Poor leadership at the national and local level.
- capacity constraints

Given that major climate finance flows are often through market rate loans, how can climate finance achieve fairness and justice for developing countries, in particular LDCs and SIDs.

- operationalize special needs and priorities of those countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and have significant capacity constraints, such as the LDCs and SIDs.
- prioritise grant-based public finance for LDCs and SIDs
- simplify approval process for LDCs and SIDs

## SESSION FOUR: CLIMATE FINANCE MECHANISMS AND ACCESS CHALLENGES

Slides 31–54 of the PowerPoint and pages 31–45 of the workbook

**Note:** It is recommended that the instructor review the relevant workbook pages prior to conducting the training session.

### Introduction

This session continues the process of providing an overview of the operating entities of the financial mechanism established under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. The session will help the participants to gain a broader understanding of access modalities, strategic programming areas, investment criteria, instruments of each of the operating entities namely Global Environment Facility, Least Developed Countries Fund, Special Climate Change Fund, Adaptation Fund, Green Climate Fund and Loss and Damage Fund.

### Learning objectives

On completion of the session, participants will be able to;

- Understand the key operating entities of the financial mechanism of the Convention and the Paris Agreement
- Broaden understanding of access modalities, strategic programming areas, investment criteria, instruments, etc. of each of the operating entities.
- Obtain general understanding of the processes for developing proposals under the respective operating entities.



## Session approach

The session will largely employ a Powerpoint presentation through visual graphs and figures to explain on each of the operating entities access modalities and programming priorities and investment criteria.

## Timing

Powerpoint presentation: 30 minutes

Group exercise: 15 minutes

## Guidance on the use of slides

The resource material for these slides can be found in the workbook version of the course. That information is intended to aid the instructor in expanding on messages from the slides. Brief explanations of key talking points (take-home messages) of select slides are included below; these are the slides for which more explanation is needed.

**Slide 31:** The facilitator may highlight some of the key barriers and challenges in accessing climate finance for implementation of NAPs, NDC, LTS. Key barriers and challenges will be further discussed in the group work.

**Slide 39:** The facilitator may highlight that LDCF is the only dedicated fund for LDCs. During GEF-8 (1 July 2022- 30 June 2026), LDCF cap was enhanced to USD 20 million per country (USD 10 million per country during GEF-7).

**Slide 50:** GCF Strategic Plan for 2024-2027. After explaining the GCF Strategic Plan for 2024-2027, the facilitator may also explain the approved strategy for the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme as it is important for participants to understand the available support through readiness grants. In the revised Readiness Strategy, the readiness grants will be through two modalities: **Country support modality, and Direct Access Entity (DAE) modality.** The country support modality will have a resource envelope of USD 4 million per country for a period of 4 years, to provide support to NDA or focal points to address capacity gaps and other related activities; up to USD 0.32 million for direct access by LDCs/SIDS per country for 4 years to support NDA and focal points; up to USD 3 million for NAP preparation; and up to USD 3 million per country to support the transition from NAP development to NAP implementation. And under the DAE (Direct Access Entity) modality, DAE will have direct access in coordination with NDA, USD 1 million per entity over a 4 year period.

**Slide 51-53:** As the fund for responding to loss and damage is being operationalised, the facilitator should highlight the LDC priorities and convey that LDC should update themselves on the decision of the LDF Board and start working on mechanisms at the national and local levels to access and receive such funds.

## Group exercises



What are the key barriers and challenges to access climate finance for climate actions at national and local levels? And how could you overcome these barriers and challenges to access climate finance for adaptation, mitigation, long-term strategy and loss and damage?

The facilitator may engage the participants into small breakout groups to allow insightful exchange of key issues and barriers in accessing climate finance from different contexts. It also allows critical thinking for innovative solutions to overcome the barriers and challenges. The presentation of the group work at the plenary will help to broaden understanding of key issues, barriers and challenges and innovative solutions.