

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Develop a technical report on the status of Regional and Local Contributions to the Nationally Determined Contribution enhancement of Colombia and Philippines

22 September 2021

1. Background

Since 30 years, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) has been supporting local & regional governments (LRGs) worldwide to address sustainable development and accelerate climate action. This is done by mobilizing political commitments/targets, guiding the design of strategies and plans, supporting their voluntary reporting, representing subnational governments at the UN level, as well as supporting implementation and access to finance. We serve the ICLEI network of 2.500+ cities, towns & regions in 125+ countries – impacting 25% of people living in urban areas.

ICLEI's offices worldwide roll out 5 interconnected development pathways: low emission, resilient, nature-based, circular, and people-centred development. Each pathway is relevant to local climate action, and provides an additional and necessary lens for coherent action.

Subnational governments are well placed to define coherent and inclusive plans that address integrated climate action: climate change adaptation, resilience and mitigation. Existing targets and plans need to be reviewed to bring in the necessary level of ambition to address the climate emergency, outlining how to achieve net zero emissions by 2040 (2050 at the latest). Creating roadmaps for climate neutrality will include the establishment of institutional frameworks, identifying priority action areas, exploring stakeholder support – including that of other levels of government - while considering essential elements such as climate justice, inclusiveness, local job creation, safety and many other impacts to co-deliver on sustainable development.

All these activities can also be useful to increase the ambition of current NDCs, and certainly need to be embedded in vertically integrated NDC implementation and investment plans.

The Urban-LEDS II project, jointly implemented by UN-Habitat and ICLEI, funded by the European Union, provides technical assistance to local governments in 8 countries, helping them develop robust strategies and Climate Action Plans, underpinned by knowledge gained from Climate Risk & Vulnerability Assessments (CRVAs) and Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories. A key component of the project is the fostering of a multilevel governance approach to urban climate action. The project encourages discussions between all levels of government to explore vertically integrated approaches that address how to improve governance structures, effective communication, intra-governmental coordination, and accelerating local action.

2. Effective Vertical Integration of Regional and Local Contributions for NDC enhancement

The current state of local Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation has largely overseen the potential for the subnational contribution to enhance the level of ambitious of NDCs. This is due to various reasons, including poor communication between levels of government and lack of technical infrastructure to collect and share information from other levels of government.

The governments of Colombia (an Urban-LEDS target country) and Philippines (an important emerging economy) have both mentioned the indispensable value of inclusion and collaborative participation of local governments in implementing climate actions, but it is yet to be seen and evaluated if national resources are cascading to the subnational and local governments. Ideally, capacity building activities, multilevel coordination, clear and regular communication, and the intention to implement an MRV system that collects sub-national and local actions and indicators is needed.

Both countries have expressed their interest in working with the AFOLU sector. Additionally Colombia has prioritized mitigation measures through (8) Sectorial Mitigation Action Plans (SMAPs) that aim to maximize the carbon-efficiency of economic activities at the national and sectorial levels and in turn contribute to social and economic development (1). The Philippines through the National Climate Change Action Plan 2011 - 2028 established seven thematic areas of government action to address climate change, namely: food security, water sufficiency, ecological and environmental stability, human security, climate-smart industries and services, sustainable energy, and knowledge and capacity development, which are pursued coherently with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2).

The setting of net-zero targets (i.e. a 1.5 degrees Celsius aligned target) accompanied by a Climate Emergency Declaration can be effective tools to bring the attention to the Regional & Local Contributions (RLCs). Moreover, these mechanisms might have the potential to increase the robustness of the NDC and be embedded in vertically integrated NDC implementation and investment plans.

All these mentioned activities touch on local governments (activities, responsibilities, potentially also mandates). As such there is a need for establishing or upgrading a coherent, effective and robust institutional arrangement, an enabling policy framework, and a data-consolidation system aligned to the requirements of the Paris Agreement.

3. Scope of work

Task 1: Desk research on institutional arrangements of the Philippines and Colombia to identify activities and opportunities to enable RLC to NDC implementation or enhancement

- Analysis of relevant publicly available material produced by National Governments, Subnational and Local Government, Academia, and NGOs.
- Studying existing MRV systems at national level and its structure, as well as mandates and functionality that (could) impact on RLC.
- Map institutional arrangements of Colombia and the Philippines serving the MRV mechanisms from a climate perspective.
- Overlapping mandates between National Government and Sub-National/local governments preventing the successful implementation of a Net zero target

¹ Colombia iNDC

² REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Nationally Determined Contribution, Communicated to the UNFCCC on 15 April 2021

Task 2: Analyze potential mechanisms to enhance existing NDCs; particularly addressing Climate Emergency Declarations and Net-zero Target Setting

Analyze the impact of a local Climate Emergency Declaration and a local Net-Zero target by 2050 at local level, and its implications for:

- Enhancing the respective 2 NDCs (including how many such declarations and targets already exist – coordinate with ICLEI on data collection, partly already available)
- Implementing a local government consolidation system in communication with the national MRV. This includes the potential flow of data and technical guidance to and from sub-national governments

Additionally:

- Quantification of city/state wide or sectoral net-zero/climate targets in Colombia and Philippines which fall under any of the work pillars mentioned on the respective NDC

Task 3: From the above compile a report summarizing the following

Considering the pillars of Data Management (including hosting, acquisition, and data aggregation), Policy Development and Capacity Building, the following questions are to be answered:

- Assess findings from Task 1 and Task 2 and make recommendations for possible action.
- What is the status for MRV system implementation in Colombia and the Philippines?
- What is the level of integration of Sub-National and Local Governments in the strategy included in the NDC?
- Is this integration happening according to the published NDC or to Institutional Arrangements?
- What are the main constraints preventing RLC to be mapped and aggregated to the NDC goal of GHG emissions reduction?
- What is the trend and potential (or obstacles) for setting net-zero targets and declaring a climate emergency at the local level – and their contribution to upscaling the NDC targets?

Total document length estimated at 12 pages per country (24 in total).

3. REQUIRED EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE FOR ASSIGNMENT

ICLEI seeks a senior expert with extensive experience in local climate action across all sectors, working with national and subnational governments. Further, he/she should understand the typical roles and visions of subnational governments leading climate action with the view to achieve climate neutrality in their communities.

Specific skills and essential experience needed for this assignment include:

- Technical skills:
 - Experience in climate change mitigation and implementing actions (sector expertise)
 - Experience with National Governments and MRV systems

- Knowledge of the UNFCCC and IPCC recommendations
- Experience with reporting frameworks for national and subnational governments
- Experience with Science-Based Targets
- Experience in data, both quantitative and qualitative assessments
- General expertise:
 - Proven track record in working with national and subnational governments on climate action
 - Excellent communications skills in English and concise writing
 - Experience in desk research
 - Experience in writing scientific paper and guidance for technical and non-technical experts

4. BUDGET AND PAYMENT

The total available budget for this assignment is at 3,000 Euro (including VAT, as relevant). A pre-payment of 1,000 Euro will be made upon receipt and approval of the 1st draft outline of contents to be submitted by 15 October 2021. The final payment will be made upon submission and approval of the final report. Invoices should accompany the respective submissions.

5. CONDITIONS

- The assignment will be completed within 3 months, starting on 5 October 2021.
- Regular consultation will be held with ICLEI's Climate Data team and the Director of the carbonn Climate Center.
- All documents, reports and other materials developed under this contract is the property of ICLEI.
- The consultant shall not pass on to any third-party data, documents, reports or other materials shared, prepared or obtained during the assignment.

6. APPLICATION

Interested applicants should apply by 18:00 CEST on 29 September 2021 by sending the following documents to jobs.bonn@iclei.org:

- Expression of Interest with qualifications, confirmation of availability for the work duration
- Updated Curriculum Vitae, max 5 pages