

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND PROGRAMMATIC APPROACHES

Insights from Session 4, Breakout Group 1 of the TCLP 2021 May Virtual Workshop, *Transformational Change and Climate Finance: Moving from Emerging Concepts to Advanced Practices*

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On May 25-26, 2021, hundreds of people from 57 countries came together in a virtual workshop organized by Climate Investment Funds' (CIF) Transformational Change Learning Partnership (TCLP). Workshop participants engaged in multiple forums to tackle questions related to how practitioners can catalyze and contribute to the transformational change that is imperative to achieving an inclusive, climate neutral, resilient, and sustainable world. During the fourth and final session of the workshop, participants selected one of five breakout groups to dive deeper into a particular area of work and what it will take to advance transformational practice and impact: 1) Long-term Planning and Programmatic Approach; 2) Systems and Actor Mapping; 3) Integrating Transformation in the Project Cycle; 4) Evaluative Practice; and 5) Building Capacity for Transformation. This document summarizes key insights, resources, and opportunities to advance transformational change from concept to practice using Long-term Planning and Programmatic Approaches identified in the group's discussion.

Key Insights on Long-term Planning and Programmatic Approaches Towards Transformational Change

Neha Mukhi gave a brief presentation, *World Bank Outlook 2050 Strategic Directions Note: Supporting Countries to Meet Long-Term Goals of Decarbonization*. The presentation provided an overview of the need to finance decarbonization and strategic directions for how to integrate long-term climate objectives. Participants then discussed how long-term planning approaches can be used to advance transformational change. Key insights from the session include:

- 1. Long-term planning and programmatic approaches are vital to guide climate action projects, as they can help situate near-term projects and investments in the broader context of economic and social development trajectories, illuminate uncertainties, and position projects to contribute to desired systems change and transformations.**
 - By developing and considering long-term plans and strategies, practitioners can better align short and medium-term targets with long-term priorities, goals, and development pathways, creating clearer lines of sight to how near-term investments can contribute to long-term goals.

- Through the *Outlook 2050* process, the World Bank is working to integrate long-term climate objectives into country macro-economic frameworks, national budget and expenditure frameworks, financial sector regulations and incentives, and cross-sector systems planning.
- Long-term planning and programmatic approaches can help align and integrate work on climate adaptation, resilience, and mitigation with multi-sectoral socioeconomic systems development.
- There is a growing recognition among international financial institutions (IFIs) that climate action must be cross-sectoral and deeply integrated into broader economic and social development planning, investment, and projects. Transformative climate action cannot be thought of as a set of siloed, separate interventions—it must be mainstreamed into all aspects of development and investment.
- Long-term planning can help practitioners consider and anticipate uncertainties, such as climate impacts, technology change, and socioeconomic change, that can affect the long-term outcomes and impacts of nearer-term investments. In some cases, this awareness can warrant changes in near-term priorities or the structure of investments or projects.

2. Long-term planning and programmatic approaches can elevate and reinforce high levels of ambition and encourage bolder action that moves beyond incremental change.

- Without clear sightlines to ambitious long-term goals, near-term investments and projects can fall victim to natural tendencies towards conservatism and risk aversion, missing important opportunities to drive bolder systems and policy change.
- Linking near-term investments and action to powerful long-term plans and goals may help mobilize political will and overcome entrenched opposition to bold climate action and system transformations.

3. Promising strategies and approaches are emerging for advancing long-term planning and programmatic approaches relevant to climate action.

- Participatory, multi-stakeholder approaches to long-term planning and program development can support legitimacy of possible development pathways and build support for bolder action.
- Long-term strategic planning on climate action and decarbonization pathways needs to be integrated into national (and international) investment planning and budgeting processes to affect broad systems change.
- Long-term plans have substantial uncertainties, which can be anticipated through development of multiple pathways or scenarios based on different assumptions. Regular reviews and revisions of long-term plans refine assumptions and incorporate learning, clarifying pathways to guide nearer-term action.
- Regional approaches, commitments, and/or roadmaps can help strengthen national commitment to long-term planning and bolder near-term action by creating external sources of pressure and accountability.
- Long-term planning processes must work to anticipate and accommodate needs and priorities borne of economic, social, and environmental crises and response.

4. Numerous frameworks, initiatives, resources, and tools are available to support long-term planning and programmatic approaches relevant to national-scale transformational change and climate action.

- IFIs and other multilateral platforms have developed initiatives over the past few years to strengthen long-term planning and programmatic approaches that seek to integrate climate goals

and action into broader national and international socioeconomic development processes. Examples include the Partnership for Carbon Accounting for Financial Sector, the World Bank Outlook 2050 initiative, the National Green Taxonomy, and Climate Budget Tagging. Some multilateral development banks and climate funds are also strengthening their systems and processes for developing investment plans and project plans to align with Paris Agreement commitments.

- At the same time, several civil society initiatives are developing platforms, resources, and tools to support participatory engagement and expertise in long-term decarbonization pathway planning. Examples include the 2050 Pathways Platform and the Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project.

5. Key steps can help accelerate and deepen the impact of long-term planning and programmatic approaches on near-term climate action and investment.

- Rapid and emergent learning processes are needed to improve long-term planning and pathway approaches and their use in climate-informed macro-fiscal planning.
- Stronger networks for practitioners working on long-term decarbonization planning and pathway development across IFIs, multilateral organizations, governments, and civil society can strengthen the power and impact of this work.
- More research and work are needed to develop and integrate just transition assessments and action planning into long-term decarbonization and systems change planning. This may help to identify important socioeconomic development investments and actions that can complement actions to advance climate mitigation, resilience, and adaptation.
- Processes to build broad-based support for climate-informed national development plans and long-term development strategies may enhance the transformative potential of investments.

Opportunities to Advance Practices Towards Transformational Change

There are opportunities for developing resources, supporting experimentation, and catalyzing learning to support transformational change through climate action, including:

- Compile and share long-term planning resources that can inform near-term country and MDB investment program and project planning.
 - Elevate and diffuse information on long-term planning resources to help mainstream understanding of the use and value of long-term pathway analysis and planning, and help overcome barriers to conventional, sector-siloed planning.
- Facilitate rapid learning on emergent MDB/country government long-term planning initiatives.
 - Convene an emergent learning workshop with selected MDB staff involved in the application of Outlook 2050 work and/or Paris alignment analyses to identify insights, challenges, and opportunities to advance practice. Prepare a short summary of resulting insights and ideas.
 - Interview and profile MDB efforts to inform investment program planning with long-term planning and pathway analyses. Develop a brief document summarizing case examples.
- Connect country government/MDB long-term planning initiatives with external partner resources.
 - Interview and/or convene representatives from key civil society organizations, such as World Resources Institute, 2050 Pathways Platform, Global Green Growth Institute, and the Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project.
 - Identify potential tools and opportunities to support CIF and MDB work with country governments to develop new country investment plans.

- Encourage consideration of long-term planning information in country investment plans for new CIF programs.
 - Develop brief guidance with references to supporting resources and tools that can support consideration of long-term decarbonization and climate resilience pathways, planning, and analytic resources in the development of new country investment plans for new CIF programs.

Long-term Planning and Programmatic Approach Resources

- World Bank Group. [World Bank Outlook 2050 Strategic Directions Note: Supporting Countries to Meet Long-Term Goals of Decarbonization. 2020.](#)
- ClimateWorks Foundation. [2050 Today.](#)
- [Deep Decarbonization Pathways Initiative.](#)
- World Resources Institute. [Long-term Climate Strategies resource website.](#)

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More Information

The insights and opportunities captured in this document reflect ongoing efforts by the TCLP to use research, analysis, expert opinion, and collaborative discussion to advance transformational change when designing, implementing, monitoring, evaluating, and learning from climate investments. For more information, please visit the TCLP website.

