

Common Guiding Principles for Organizations Supporting Developing Countries with Development of Low Greenhouse Gas Emission Plans and Strategies

The use of consistent and shared principles, methods, and approaches can improve the quality of support provided to developing countries for preparation and implementation of low greenhouse gas emission plans and strategies. This includes support for technology needs assessments, for low carbon and clean energy development plans, and for technology roadmaps and deployment programs.

The members of the Coordinated Low Emissions Assistance Network (CLEAN) have developed the following principles to help guide support that these international technical organizations provide to developing countries for such low greenhouse gas emission plans and strategies.

The CLEAN members will use these principles to guide and inform collaborative activities of the network. In addition each of the CLEAN members will also seek to apply these principles, to the extent possible, in implementation of their organization's respective activities with developing countries.

On coordination of activities by international institutions

1. International organizations should design assistance to support plan and strategy development that is led by host country institutions and builds lasting capacity in these institutions
2. International organizations should coordinate delivery of assistance to specific countries to ensure that such support uses national and international resources efficiently, addresses common objectives and priorities for the recipient country, and builds capacity in core national institutions.
3. International organizations should openly share and collaborate on development of methods and tools, delivery of training, and expert technical assistance to developing countries.
4. International organizations should work to develop consistent definitions and performance indicators.
5. Relationships should be established with international business and investment groups, donor programs, and NGO networks that can be sources of support for implementation of developing country plans.

On analysis and data collection

6. Assessments and the resulting strategies should be based on a rigorous examination of mitigation potential and economic, environmental, and social benefits and impacts
7. Assessment should cover contribution of technologies and energy systems towards developmental priorities, including highlighting financing needs and sources and risks associated with adoption of these technologies.
8. Clean technology assessments and data should be technology-neutral and objective
9. Methods and data should be peer reviewed and, where possible, should be made publicly available
10. Data sources, assessment methods, and variability and uncertainty should be communicated in a transparent fashion to users and policy makers

On technical assistance

11. The objective of technical assistance shall be to "transfer the process" to development partners; capacity building efforts should have the aim of building lasting expertise in developing country institutes.
12. Training, presentations, course material, etc should be made publicly available.
13. Virtual mechanisms for training, expert assistance, and sharing of approaches and best practices should be utilized to complement in-person forums and assistance and to enable a broad reach.

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14. Learning and sharing of experiences and approaches between countries should be fostered, including pilot testing methodologies (e.g. UNDP Handbook) and tools among partners.
15. Where feasible, regional institutions should be engaged in delivery of technical assistance to tap and build regional expertise.

On strategies

16. Low carbon development plans should be informed by current national development plans and objectives and use existing planning processes and infrastructure.
17. Strategies will be most effective where they start with a clear definition of national goals and consider options across sectors to best achieve these goals.
18. Broad stakeholder engagement, including a range of government departments, the private sector, and NGOs is critical to ensuring commitment to action by all parties, and engendering a feeling of ownership, both over the process, and of the ultimate product.
19. Strategies should be aligned with the aims of the UNFCCC that are consistent with national priorities, and with relevant UNFCCC programs (where appropriate).
20. Host countries should endorse any strategy at the highest appropriate level and commit to implementation; obtaining such endorsement and commitment shall be an objective of the exercise.
21. Strategies should establish well defined milestones and national processes for reviewing progress against these milestones and refining the strategy as circumstances dictate.