

# **Country-Level Governance of Climate Adaptation Finance for Building Resilience in the Developing World**

## Introduction

- Vulnerable communities across the world are already feeling the effects of a changing climate.
- These communities are urgently in need of assistance aimed at building resilience and at undertaking climate change adaptation efforts as a matter of survival and in order to maintain livelihoods.
- However, even as financing for climate change adaptation begins to flow to developing countries, it is not yet clear if the funding will respond to those immediate and pressing needs; and whether these funds can succeed in reaching the most vulnerable remains a critical unanswered question.

## ...Introduction

- Climate change adaptation finance should not be considered aid in the traditional sense.
- In order for adaptation funding to be effective and reach those who need it most, developing countries themselves need to own and be invested in the process, with a focus on developing country-led adaptation strategies.
- Country ownership in the context of climate change adaptation finance entails a strong role for governments in developing countries. However, governments also have an obligation to create the necessary national governance structures and ensure accountability to civil society and to its citizens, especially the most vulnerable.

- Climate change adaptation finance is still at a formative stage and can be shaped such that developing countries and, above all, vulnerable communities, can guide the ways in which it is used.
- This represents a significant window of opportunity. There are currently a number of channels of adaptation finance for which this is critical, while the new global Green Climate Fund, in particular, has the potential to build a new approach for managing climate finance at the global and national levels.
- It is clear that both international providers of finance and national governments will need to undertake significant course corrections.

- Adaptation finance is often channeled around governments, through multiple and uncoordinated channels, and without alignment with national adaptation or development plans or investment aimed at enhancing national capacity;
- The lack of capacity in many developing countries hampers these efforts;
- Most importantly, the participation and accountability of civil society and vulnerable communities, particularly of women, have yet to be achieved in most countries.
- What is needed is for providers of adaptation finance, particularly within the framework of the Green Climate Fund, to make countries the drivers for the use of funding.

## Recommendations

- **Providers of adaptation finance must put developing countries in the driver's seat:**
- **Adaptation plans and funds must be accountable to the most vulnerable**
- **Developing countries should exercise leadership:**

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## ...Recommendations

- **Developing countries should exercise leadership:**
  - Effective government leadership should be established for adaptation planning and use of finance, and led by a clearly identified ministry or agency

# ...Recommendations

- **Adaptation plans and funds must be accountable to the most vulnerable:**
  - Adaptation strategies and the use of funding must be developed and implemented by countries with the full participation of vulnerable communities and civil society, and be transparent and accountable to them;
  - Providers of finance, particularly through the Green Climate Fund, should help to ensure that country strategies are participatory and accountable, including providing the resources needed to fulfill that goal;
  - Gender equality and women's leadership should be central to the development and implementation of national strategies.

Thank you