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# Aligning Climate Action with Long-Term Climate and Development Goals: **2050 Is Now**

**Strategic debrief note** | Key Takeaways  
from the 2024 Regional Convening





# Introduction

In September 2024, the 2050 Pathways Platform hosted a two-day convening in Jakarta, Indonesia, as part of the IKI-funded 2050 is now project, with support from GIZ's SPA unit. With a focus on long-term low-emission development strategies (LT-LEDS), the event gathered 65 participants, including representatives from 19 national governments from Asia and countries in Latin America and Africa with relevance to the project, LT-LEDS experts, and development partners. The event focused on key thematic areas identified by the 2050 Is Now consortium partners as essential for strengthening LT-LEDS in countries, including:

- The alignment of long-term LT-LEDS with Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and other national development plans
- The role of subnational governments in long-term climate action
- The integration of Agriculture, Forestry, and Land Use (AFOLU) systems in long-term planning
- International long-term ambition on the road to COP30

By highlighting country lessons and promoting South-South cooperation, the 2050 Is Now regional convening served as a platform for sharing practical tools and approaches to strengthen long-term strategies and foster a collaborative, solution-oriented community of LT-LEDS practitioners. This strategic briefing note presents key messages and insights that emerged from these discussions.





## 1

**Additional LT-LEDs  
Tools & Resources**

- NDC - LT-LEDs ALIGNMENT GUIDE: Aligning short-term plans with long-term ambitions. IDDRI, 2050 Pathways Platform.
- Aligning nationally determined contributions with 1.5°C, net zero, and long-term, low-emission development strategies. World Resources Institute.
- RDM Guide: Using Robust Decision-Making to Develop Long-Term Strategies. The Climate Lead Group, 2050 Pathways Platform.
- NDC Partnership. NDC 3.0 Navigator. <https://ndcnavigator.org/>

# LT-LEDs: A Roadmap for Ambitious NDCs 3.0 and National Development Plans

Alignment between LT-LEDs, NDCs, and other national development plans was a key focus of the convening, offering a timely space to build capacity to strengthen ambition of the next cycle of NDC submissions ahead of COP30. Over two days, participants outlined existing approaches to bridging short- and long-term climate action, which are summarized in this section.

## ► Integrating Global Stocktake Outcomes into National Climate Commitments

Integrating the outcomes of the Global Stocktake (GST) into national climate commitments in the context of development priorities is crucial for achieving long-term climate goals. **The GST provides actionable insights that can drive cooperation and transformative action through global benchmarks**, enabling countries to evaluate their NDCs against global climate targets.

However, the integration of these insights remains challenging. Many of the GST recommendations suggest systemic changes that go beyond the scope of short-term emissions reductions in NDCs. To effectively implement GST outcomes, **countries need to take a long-term perspective and develop intermediate steps to adapt these outcomes into country-specific policies**. Moreover, it is essential that LT-LEDs and NDCs not only address mitigation but also integrate adaptation and biodiversity, providing a more comprehensive approach to climate action.



## ► Integrating Socioeconomic and Development Priorities into LT-LEDs

Integrating socioeconomic factors and national development priorities into LT-LEDs is equally essential. **Countries around the table highlighted that the transition to a low-carbon economy can have significant impacts— positive or negative—on jobs, inequality, economic stability, and quality of life.** By incorporating indicators such as GDP impact, trade balance, employment, distributional impacts, and the Sustainable Development Goals, countries can better understand the wider implications of pathways for climate action. This approach helps ensure that long-term strategies not only advance climate goals but also support inclusive, equitable development, particularly for vulnerable populations.

Cost-benefit analysis emerged as a valuable tool for facilitating the integration of broader national priorities into LT-LEDs, **helping evaluate climate pathways by weighing environmental goals, economic resilience, and priorities like energy security.** In Latin America and the Caribbean, recent assessments show how this approach can highlight the economic case for net zero, demonstrating net gains while improving health and energy access. **With climate risks projected to cut GDP by up to 30% in some developing countries,** governments also shared efforts to integrate these risks into fiscal planning and expand private sector engagement to advance both decarbonization and resilience.

## ► Challenges to Alignment Between LT-LEDs, NDCs, and National Development Plans

However, aligning LT-LEDs, NDCs, and other national development plans is not without its challenges, as highlighted in convening discussions. Participants shared that **different government agencies may have conflicting mandates,** and coordination between national and sub-national levels of government is often insufficient. For many countries, especially Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the capacity to coordinate alignment efforts is also limited.

**The dynamic and uncertain nature of the transition complicates alignment** too, as governments must balance the need for detailed, credible plans with the flexibility to adapt to unforeseen challenges. The use of methodological approaches for LT-LEDs formulation, such as robust decision making, can help manage some of these uncertainties related challenges.

Misalignments in data collection, such as **discrepancies in economic indicators and sectoral planning,** further hinder effective integration of LT-LEDs with NDCs and national plans. Moreover, **high staff turnover in government institutions and divergent views from civil society on net-zero goals** can create additional barriers to effective alignment between LT-LEDs, NDCs and other national development plans.



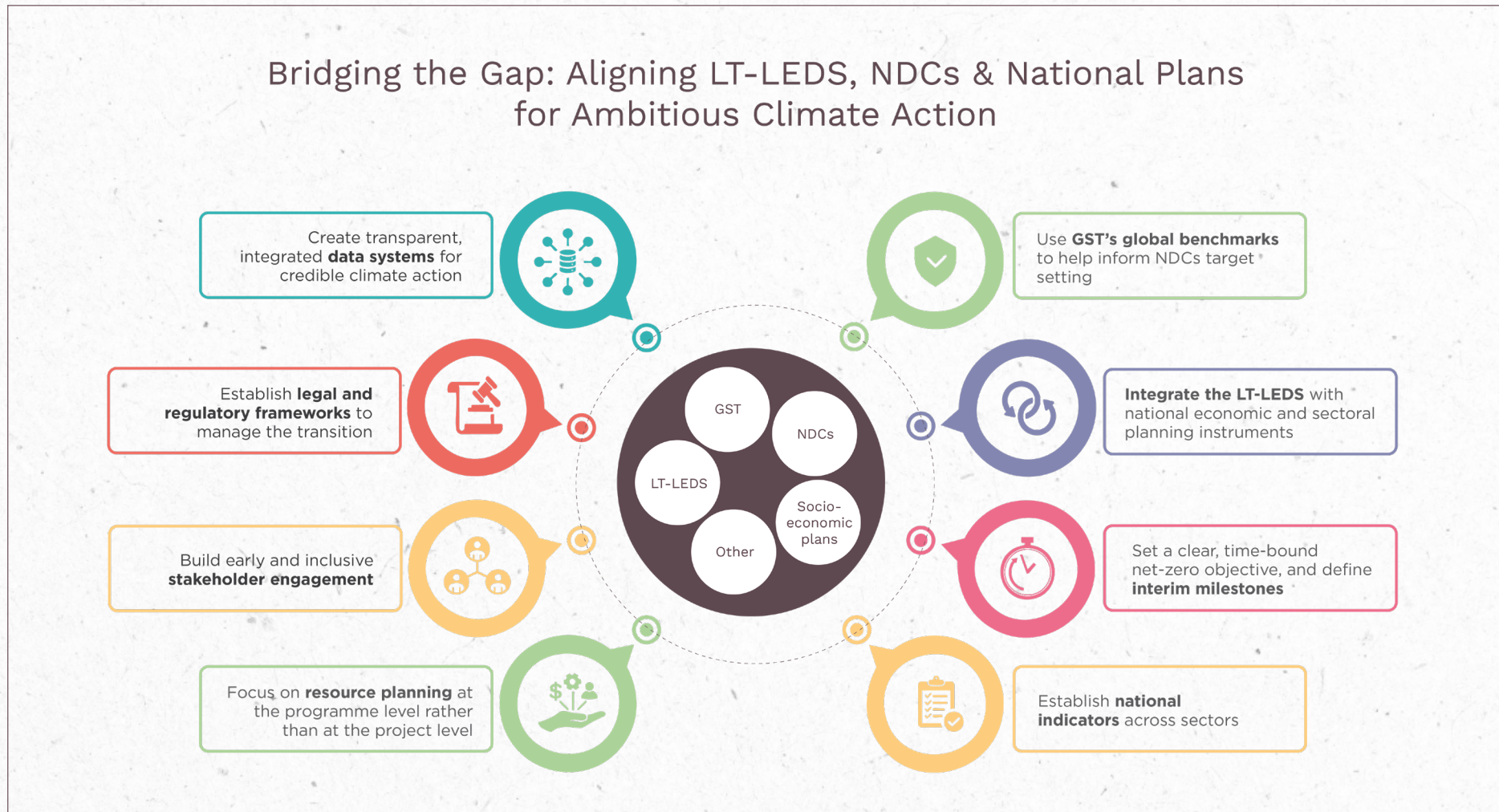
## Practical Actions and Approaches to Enhance Alignment

To address these challenges, the following best practice measures were highlighted by experts and countries to enhance alignment of short-term and long-term climate policies.

- **The LT-LEDS cannot function in isolation; it must be integrated with existing national planning instruments.** This integration is an opportunity to explore key questions at the intersection of climate and development, such as how line ministries' priorities align with emissions goals, how the global transition could open new economic opportunities, and which sectors and communities stand to benefit or require support.
- **Setting a clear, time-bound net-zero objective** within the LT-LEDS facilitates the definition of clear roadmaps and interim milestones, which in turn facilitate the provision of concrete inputs for NDCs and other national strategies.
- **Establishing national indicators across sectors** will help track progress and ensure coherence between short- and long-term goals. Integrating sectoral plans early in the planning process can also address discrepancies in the use of economic indicators, creating a more unified approach.
- **Focusing on resource planning at the programme level rather than at the project level** can inform a more strategic prioritization and allocation of resources over time. **When LT-LEDS and NDCs are aligned, they provide a strong foundation for connecting national climate plans with international finance.** Development finance institutions are increasingly looking to long-term strategies to guide investments aligned with the Paris Agreement. Instruments such as technical cooperation, policy-based financing were seen as important tools of support, and initiatives like Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETPs) and emerging country platforms can link resource mobilization with national priorities in climate plans to support effective implementation.
- **Early and inclusive stakeholder engagement** is key to building lasting consensus around climate action. Engaging the private sector, across both the real economy and financial system, is particularly important. Their experience with risk management can provide valuable insights into how to effectively transition to a low-carbon economy.
- **Establishing legal and regulatory frameworks is fundamental to managing the transition.** Clear governance structures that enable coordination across ministries and agencies are not optional; they are critical to ensuring alignment across climate policies and driving effective implementation.
- **Transparent, integrated data systems are essential for credible climate action.** Disjointed data can undermine trust and delay decisions. **Developing unified national databases,** using UNFCCC reports - such as National Communications, Biennial Updated Reports, and Biennial Transparency Report - and national statistics, can improve scenario analysis and support evidence-based LT-LEDS and NDC planning.



The following infographic visually summarises the key takeaways from convening discussions around alignment between LT-LEDS, NDCs and national development plans.





# 2

## Opportunities and Challenges Implementing LT-LEDs at the Subnational Level

Conversations with subnational actors brought a strong focus on practical implementation, highlighting a wide range of ongoing activities aimed at advancing project delivery. These efforts were primarily seen as contributing to the social and economic well-being of local communities, rather than aligning with the formal lines of international negotiations. This grounded perspective underscored the importance of local action in driving tangible outcomes and bridging the gap between high-level commitments and on-the-ground impact. Bringing together country case examples from the 2050 is Now project, the convening attempted to unpack some of the key challenges faced by subnational entities in the implementation of national LT-LEDs objectives.

A major issue brought to light was the **diversity of contexts within the same country**, as geographical and economic differences lead to varying greenhouse gas emissions, adaptation needs, and levels of engagement. Additionally, **misalignment between national and subnational climate and development targets** results in conflicting priorities, while **weak communication and coordination mechanisms** create siloed approaches to planning. Other obstacles highlighted include **unclear division of responsibilities, limited financial resources, political resistance, and a lack of standardised data and reporting mechanisms**.

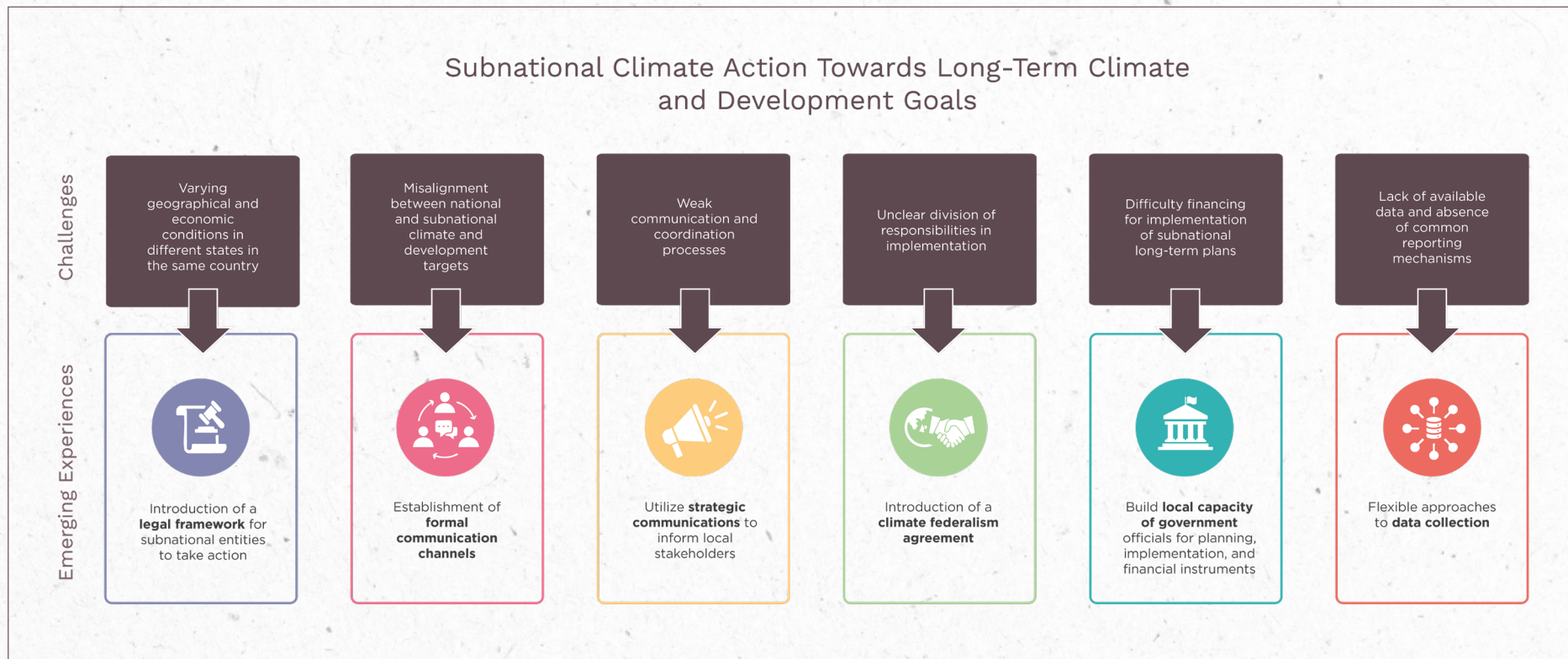
By having an open discussion about these barriers to implementation with national government representatives in the room, convening exchanges enabled the identification of solutions for successful subnational climate action.



Establishing a **legal framework to drive political consensus and subnational action** was seen as a critical step. Strengthening **formal communication channels**, such as coordination meetings and online reporting platforms, could improve policy alignment and trust. Strategic communication efforts should also be enhanced to **inform stakeholders of the benefits and trade-offs of long-term planning**. Furthermore, a **climate federalism agreement** was suggested to improve coherence between governance levels in federal countries. Expanding **capacity-building initiatives for local officials**, increasing

**flexibility in data collection**, and ensuring **greater financial support for subnational plans** were also identified as key actions to enhance subnational climate action.

The following infographic summarises the main challenges discussed by the 2050 is Now community and corresponding solutions that subnational and national stakeholders can consider to effectively address barriers to the implementation of LT-LEDs objectives at the subnational level.





# 3

## Overcoming Barriers and Advancing AFOLU Roadmaps in Long-Term Planning

The convening exchanges highlighted a collective recognition that integrating AFOLU into long-term planning presents several barriers to success.

For instance, implementing new AFOLU measures requires **substantial capacity building, technical expertise, and financial resources**, which can be challenging to secure. Additionally, ensuring that local farmers and communities have access to the necessary knowledge and tools is essential for the successful adoption of new practices. Policy alignment across different sectors is also critical to achieving carbon neutrality goals; however, **inconsistent or conflicting national policies** can undermine efforts to reduce emissions within the AFOLU sector.

During the discussions, examples of countries in the region, and beyond, showcased specific methods and tools that can enhance the effective integration of AFOLU in long-term climate and development plans. Key strategies highlighted include **shifting towards climate-smart agriculture, agroforestry, and sustainable land management** to drive economic growth without expanding agricultural land. **National Climate Change Committees** were recognised as crucial platforms for balancing economic and political considerations with climate goals. **Policy measures to encourage dietary shifts**, such as integrating environmental impacts of food consumption into national frameworks and promoting crop diversification, were also discussed.

### Additional LT-LEDs Tools & Resources

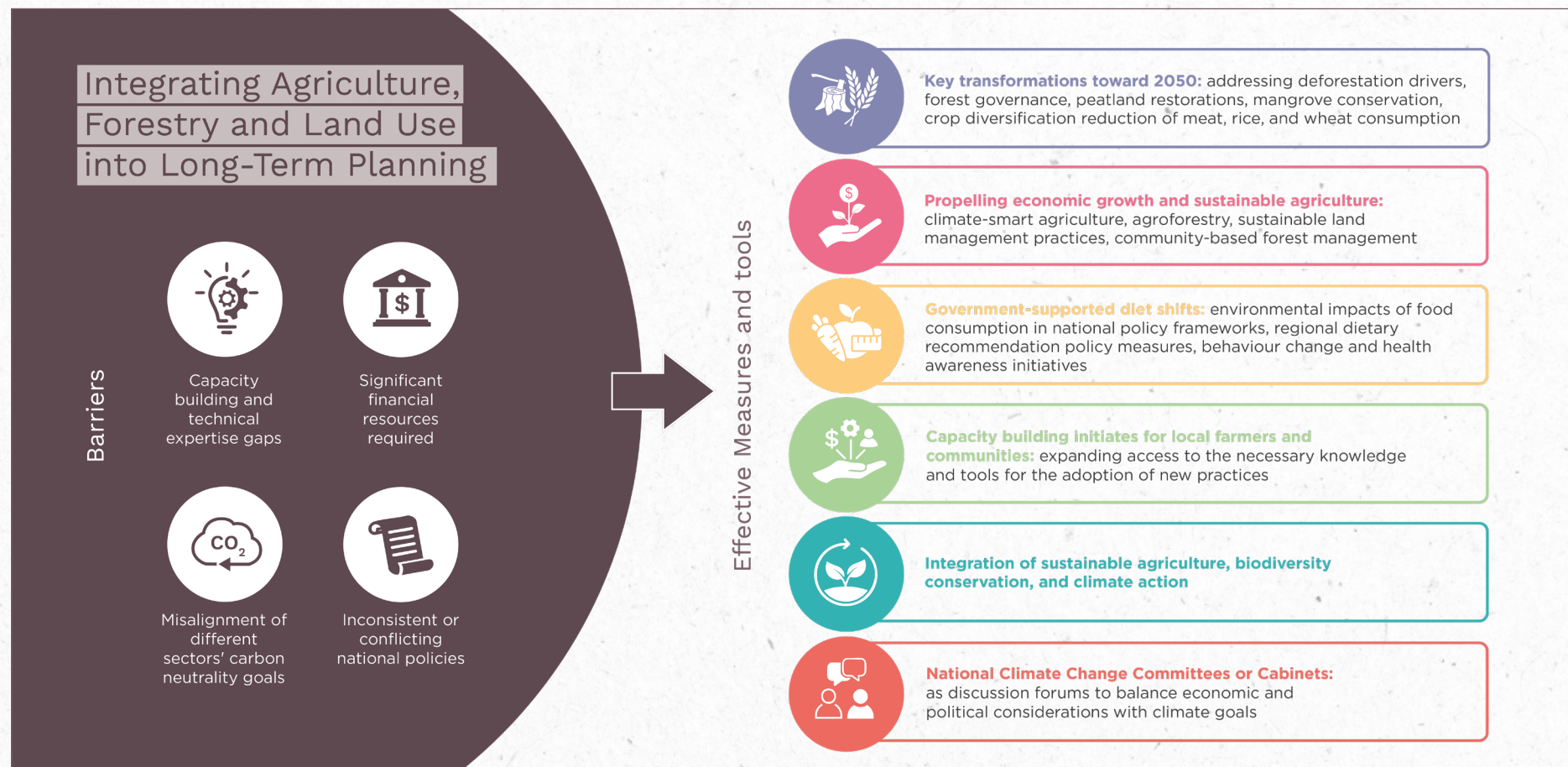
- [Enhancing Long-Term Low-Emission Development Strategies: Agriculture, Forestry and Land use, 2050 Pathways Platform.](#)
- [Transforming food and land systems to achieve the SDGs, FABLE.](#)



Additionally, decision-making exercises like **FABLE consortium's 'Scenathon'**, a participatory decision-making exercise that integrates models, stakeholders, and technology to collectively solve complex, large-scale multi-objective problems, were noted as valuable tools for assessing long-term AFOLU strategies and their alignment with global climate commitments. Mitigation measures such as

**addressing deforestation, strengthening forest governance, restoring peatlands, and conserving mangroves** were emphasised as critical steps toward sustainable land-use systems by 2050.

The following infographic captures the key takeaways from knowledge-sharing on AFOLU.





# 4

## From Baku to Belem: Next Milestones for Global Ambition on LT-LEDS

With the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement at COP30 fast approaching, it was crucial for the long-term planning community to reflect on key milestones and opportunities for international cooperation to enhance climate ambition. A collective reflection at the convening provided insights into the role of LT-LEDS in strengthening NDCs and shaping COP30 outcomes.

There is growing recognition that LT-LEDS can serve as a strategic backbone for aligning immediate climate actions with long-term goals. Participants highlighted that **a key priority on the road to COP30 is strengthening the credibility and coherence of NDCs 3.0, ensuring they are aligned with the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C target.** LT-LEDS play a crucial role in this process by offering a clear linkage to the 1.5°C target via a long-term view and roadmap to guide short-term decision-making. Without this strategic foundation, near-term plans risk being fragmented and fragile.

As such, several key milestones were highlighted as opportunities to strengthen climate commitments and enhance the contribution of LT-LEDS towards global climate action, including:



- **Aligning NDCs with net-zero goals:** Countries are increasingly integrating LT-LEDS and NDCs, increasing momentum for stronger climate commitments. Rapid technical support is needed to facilitate this alignment.
- **Submission of new LT-LEDS:** All countries are expected to submit updated LT-LEDS by COP30, reinforcing their net-zero ambitions.
- **MDBs and climate finance:** LT-LEDS can serve as a condition for Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) funding, aligning financial strategies with the Paris Agreement. MDBs should offer technical assistance to strengthen LT-LEDS efforts.
- **COP30 as a pivotal moment:** updated NDCs aligning with the 1.5°C goal will be central to COP30 negotiations. A key outcome should be stronger integration between NDCs and LT-LEDS, supported by clear guidance and strong methodological approaches.

Additionally, to maximize the impact of LT-LEDS and ensure they drive meaningful climate action, long-term planning efforts will aim to bolster support for:

- **Defining implementation pathways:** LT-LEDS should outline concrete measures, milestones over time, and related cost-benefits for achieving climate goals.

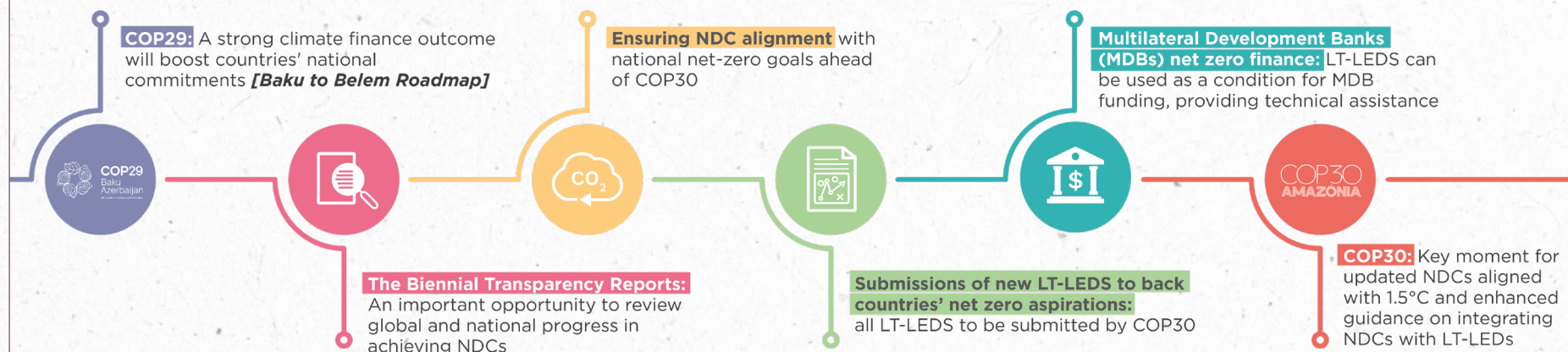
- **Setting structural benchmarks:** including clear benchmarks, aligned with the Global Stocktake (GST), can help track progress.
- **Addressing broader sustainability goals:** LT-LEDS should incorporate adaptation, just transition, and socio-economic objectives, providing indicators beyond GHG emissions.
- **Strengthening consensus across society:** Fostering cross-sector collaboration is vital to increase the feasibility of implementation and a just and inclusive transition.
- **Mobilising climate finance:** adequate translation of LT-LEDS into investment planning and financial indicators is needed for implementation. In particular, better identification of barriers to delivering transformations is needed to inform required measures to remove them and enable new business models.
- **Embedding LT-LEDS in national development plans:** legal, policy, and investment frameworks must integrate LT-LEDS for cohesive long-term progress.

As COP30 approaches, **aligning LT-LEDS and NDCs and linking them with financing and implementation initiatives will be essential to delivering ambitious, country-driven climate action.**

When these planning tools are used together to guide investment and execution, they become greater than the sum of their parts, enabling more coherent and impactful outcomes for both climate and development.



## Next Milestones for Global Ambition on LT-LEDs



## Priority Action Areas for the LT-LEDs Community



Strengthen the ability to guide practical implementation with **actionable roadmaps**



Articulate **structural changes and defining benchmarks** to assess progress



Go beyond mitigation to address **economic, social and environmental** objectives



Strengthen **consensus** across all sectors of society



Enhance links with **climate finance** mobilization efforts



**Integrate LT-LEDs** into National Development Plans



# Concluding two insightful days of exchanges on LT-LEDS

As the convening came to an end, there was a strong collective commitment to maintaining momentum within the long-term planning community by sharing knowledge, building national capacity, exploring future collaboration opportunities, and enhancing tools and methods to inform decision-making more effectively.

Moving forward, there is a clear recognition that LT-LEDS remains an essential tool for guiding national development. Governments will require additional resources and local capacity to effectively develop these strategies to inform decision-making. With funding for LT-LEDS development available and partners ready to provide support, **it is crucial to ensure that financial assistance responds to best practices and the progress made by countries.**

As part of the 2050 is Now, consortium partners will also continue to enable spaces for countries, experts, and development partners to come together to highlight best practices and unpack challenges in the strengthening and implementation of long-term climate and development policies.





