

OCTOBER 2025

From Commitments to Action: **Bridging climate, development, and finance**

Strategic debrief note | Key Takeaways from
the 2025 LT-LEDS Global Convening



Introduction

A decade into the global 1.5°C commitment, the stakes have never been clearer. The ongoing NDC 3.0 cycle presents a strategic window to align near-term actions with long-term climate and development goals, turning ambition into tangible progress. With COP30 on the horizon, the focus is shifting from commitments to delivery.

On 9-10 June 2025, in Berlin, the 2050 Pathways Platform, as part of the 2050 is Now consortium, brought together over 60 government officials, technical experts, and development partners to share insights from their hands-on experiences to reflect on how long-term strategies (LT-LEDS) can inform near-term decisions, and explore pathways to accelerate

implementation. A central theme was how to systematically bridge long-term planning with Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) processes, while embedding sustainable and equitable development objectives at the core. This community has a vital role to play in ensuring that national strategies translate into concrete action, investment, and impact.

This document captures the strategic takeaways and thematic highlights from the discussions, aiming to provide actionable insights that can help inform COP30, strengthen NDC 3.0, and advance the implementation agenda under the Paris Agreement.



SECTION 1

Strategic Takeaways



**Strategic
Takeaway****1**

Alignment between NDCs and LT-LEDS is advancing but remains uneven.

► **Countries with legal net-zero targets tend to be further ahead, yet even those without are finding ways to bring technical teams together and start identifying the gaps.**

Countries are making progress in aligning long-term strategies and NDCs, supported by the growing number of LT-LEDS submissions (76 submitted, ~48 under development). This year's NDC update cycle offers a unique opportunity to test approaches to alignment. Although alignment is still an emerging approach that is not yet fully mainstreamed, this year's NDC update cycle and the increased number of LT-LEDS submitted or under development are offering an essential learning opportunity for approaching alignment of these key instruments for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Countries with net-zero targets enshrined in law tend to be ahead, but even without legal mandates, meaningful steps are emerging, including connecting technical teams across processes and identifying gaps across planning instruments, to gradually strengthen integration. Alignment work will likely continue beyond NDC 3.0 submissions, with growing attention to assessing policy coherence across national instruments.



A background image showing a group of people, mostly women, working together at a table. They are looking at documents and a smartphone. One document has handwritten notes in blue ink, including "Institutional system embedded in law", "Crossing Government of Finance Ministry", and "NDC 3.0". Another document has a diagram with a circle labeled "NDC 3.0" and text around it: "COUNTRIES WITH NDCs STRONGER IN ALIGNMENT WITH SDGs ALIGNMENT BEYOND COP30".

Strategic Takeaway

2

The greater value added of LT-LEDs lies in their role as development-driven planning spaces.

➡ **LT-LEDs are more than target-setting exercises; they offer a space that bridges climate ambition with socioeconomic priorities and enables deeper engagement across a broader range of stakeholders. When it comes to LT-LEDs, the “D” of development is the key focus.**

Countries consistently emphasised the distinct value of LT-LEDs: they create space for climate planning that starts from national development goals, not just mitigation targets. In contrast with NDCs, which are more often shaped by external timelines and political moments, LT-LEDs are often seen as a process-oriented planning tool, bridging climate ambition with socioeconomic priorities and enabling deeper sectoral and subnational engagement, bringing additional stakeholders to the table in an iterative process.

A key insight is that the ambition of NDC 3.0 should be measured not only by headline targets, but by the depth and credibility of the plans and processes behind them, which can be complemented by the breadth of work that countries are advancing under their LT-LEDs formulation process (either completed, under development this year, or to be completed after NDC 3.0 submission).

A woman wearing a grey hijab and glasses is speaking at a conference. She is gesturing with her hands while talking. In the background, other people are visible, and there are water bottles and papers on the table in the foreground.

Strategic Takeaway

3

Implementation requires stronger integration of planning and finance

► **This matters as we look ahead to COP30, as the strength of the national processes will ultimately be essential to support implementation.**

As countries move from planning to implementation, a recurring insight is the disconnect between climate planners and finance actors, often working in parallel but not truly aligned even in countries where Ministries of Finance are actively engaged, *“It seems we are talking about the same topics, but upon a deeper look, we are not”*. Yet both communities have made progress. Connecting these efforts more deliberately can accelerate implementation grounded in country-owned processes.

There was a shared view that LT-LEDS are proving valuable not only for long-term visioning but also as concrete entry points for current policy and investment dialogue, thanks to their increasing granularity, national ownership, and development framing. Importantly, the governance and coordination structures built around them are not seen as optional add-ons, but as foundational elements for meaningful implementation. Much of this groundwork already exists in many countries, offering a strong platform to accelerate implementation if leveraged. Country platforms were discussed as a promising pathway to organise efforts, connect planning with finance, and link ambition to investment.

SECTION 2

Session Highlights



DAY 1

Planning National Transitions and Sectoral Roadmaps



The first day focused on national experiences with analytical tools and scenario modelling to support the formulation and implementation of LT-LEDS and NDCs.

SESSION 1

Navigating the transition: aligning long-term planning with immediate actions —experiences from LT-LEDS/NDC practitioners

- A common theme across was that **LT-LEDS provide greater space for ambitious dialogue**, but this is often not matched by short-term commitments. Countries continue to face **challenges in aligning immediate actions with long-term goals**, partly due to the perceived high upfront costs of LT-LEDS-aligned measures and the delayed visibility benefits beyond NDC timelines.
- To address this gap, participants emphasised the importance of **understanding trade-offs, synergies, co-benefits beyond GHGs, and long-term implications of different measures to inform policymakers' choices**. Scenario tools, such as Energy Policy Simulator and LEAP Modelling, were widely seen as useful when they allow for exploring those issues, providing input on topics beyond climate — including health, energy security, affordability, and resilience — guiding “no-regrets” measures in both LT-LEDS and NDCs. For example, long-term analysis in the transport sector in a given country revealed that efficiency standards, initially seen as low-cost, risked becoming expensive and less effective over time compared to electrification pathways. Such insights, including health and affordability gains from EV adoption, illustrate how long-term planning can correct policy blind spots and prioritize measures with durable benefits.
- Institutional fragmentation undermines coherence. Bridging the gap between LT-LEDS, NDCs, and national plans requires consistent data, integrated governance, and durable inter-ministerial mechanisms. Despite progress, many governments are still far from integrated planning; for example, environment, energy, and finance ministries often operate with separate data and assumptions. **Strengthening inter-ministerial coordination, embedding review cycles, and building in-country technical capacity were seen as essential**. LT-LEDS can serve as a unifying platform for sectoral priorities, while approaches like Robust Decision-Making (RDM) help test strategies against multiple futures and support iterative dialogue with stakeholders.

SESSION 2

Developing robust sectoral roadmaps for AFOLU and coastal conservation

- **AFOLU's deep uncertainty requires integrated, systems-thinking approaches that move beyond siloed sectoral planning**, recognising the interconnections among agriculture, forestry, land use, energy, transport, health and urban planning. By using tools like integrated modelling, future scenario planning, and involving local communities, countries can better understand trade-offs, align development with climate goals, reduce uncertainty, manage complexity, and create more effective climate policies.
- Advancing **AFOLU long-term planning requires innovation, finance, and coordination**, utilising emerging practices like agri-solar integration, blue carbon initiatives, and results-based payments, supported by strong institutional coordination, reliable data systems, and local community engagement. These efforts must be combined with carefully designed financial tools such as carbon markets, insurance, and blue bonds, many of which are still relatively new and raise numerous questions about their design and effectiveness. This should be complemented by well-designed cross-sectoral strategies backed by high-level mandates and collaborative planning to overcome fragmentation and scale challenges.

SESSION 3

Addressing institutional, policy, and economic enablers for sustained net zero pathways

- Successful consideration of socioeconomic dimensions into long-term climate planning in countries relies on **participatory multi-stakeholder processes, integration of national development goals, and sector-specific analysis**; this can enhance analysis to assess key variables to inform an equitable transition.
- **Essential tools and frameworks, such as high-resolution scenario modelling, cost-benefit analysis under uncertainty, and sectoral impact assessments with monitoring roadmaps** highlighted the benefits of reduced fossil fuel dependence, improved health and job quality, while addressing challenges platform for sectoral priorities, while approaches like Robust Decision-Making (RDM) help test strategies against multiple futures and support iterative dialogue with stakeholders.



DAY 2

Aligning Global Ambition and International Cooperation

The second day connected national experiences to international frameworks, exploring the role of LT-LEDS in raising ambition for NDC 3.0 and informing implementation ahead of COP30.

SESSION 4

What are we doing to bring NDCs to the finish line? Approaches to align with LT-LEDS and assess ambition

- **Stronger alignment between LT-LEDS and NDCs is critical to raise ambition, unlock finance, and support a just transition in countries.** While momentum is growing after the Global Stocktake underscored the importance of LT-LEDS and NDC alignment, countries called for clearer definitions of alignment and for NDCs to clearly link short-term actions with long-term goals beyond just setting targets.
- One common approach shared by governments during this session was **the importance of aligning institutional arrangements and stakeholder engagement processes**, not only between LT-LEDS and NDCs but with other key national development plans in countries. Some of the solutions presented by countries to achieve such alignment included: introducing coordination bodies overseeing both processes as well as rethinking contracting processes in order to expand internal technical capacity within government. This can help ensure the alignment of data and assumptions between teams and move away from reliance on external consulting. Building this institutional setup requires time and sustained effort, so there are no quick fixes.

SESSION 5

From plans to investments: what can long-term planning contribute to inform investments, and what is the role of international cooperation?

- Countries need substantial new investments over the next five years to shift energy, industrial, urban, and agricultural systems toward low-emission pathways. While challenging under tight budgets, these investments are critical to avoid locking in high-emission infrastructure. However, traditional metrics like return on investment or marginal abatement cost curves often overlook system-wide transformation benefits, favouring incremental changes. **Investment decisions should instead consider total-system transition costs, benefits and alignment with long-term pathways.** LTS can help inform this shift by mapping technology, policy, and finance pathways toward 2050–2060 goals, sequencing priority measures, and tracking progress with clear indicators.
- A climate-ready governance system by 2035 requires Ministries of Finance and Planning to lead on implementation roadmaps for LT-LEDs and NDC 3.0 delivery. Global market shifts are essential for success. Furthermore, because **investment returns depend heavily on policy and regulatory certainty**, defining these frameworks early is essential, ideally as part of LTS, NDCs, or as an immediate next step.
- Investors need to **integrate system-change considerations** into their criteria, aligning financial expectations with pathway milestones. A common language and shared metrics could be developed to

assess and communicate progress in system transformation. **International cooperation can help accelerate these investments**, for example, by using the Global Stocktake to align finance with net-zero pathways and proposing analytical approaches. One practical idea is to establish a high-level task force to operationalize these approaches and ensure coordinated action.

SESSION 6

Delivering on climate ambition: what should be expected from NDCs and LT-LEDs on the road to COP30?

- Participants recognised that **LT-LEDs are essential in the global effort to assess ambition and inform the deliberative process at COP30.** While countries may still be facing challenges in adopting more ambitious NDCs, targets should be understood in the context of a broader national process and society-wide dialogue, which are critical to secure a development-driven and people-focused transition.
- As countries learn and improve how to enhance alignment between NDCs and LTS, **concrete steps could be taken during this NDC update cycle.** At the national level, countries could develop a short standalone analytical document or a dedicated chapter within their NDC technical report assessing alignment between the NDC and longer-term socio-economic and climate objectives. At the international level, work could be advanced to articulate the role of LT-LEDs in supporting NDC implementation and Paris Agreement goals, with a key audience including the Coalition Ministries of Finance.

The 2025 LT-LEDS Global Convening was organised under the scope of “2050 is Now”, a four-year project funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI). ‘2050 is Now’ is led by a consortium of global and in-country partners: 2050 Pathways Platform, Fundación Bariloche, IDDRI, NREL, UN SDSN, WRI Brazil, WRI Global, WRI India and WRI Indonesia.

