**Concept Note: Cohort Model for Targeted Topics Forum Participation**

**Issue**

The NAP Global Network Secretariat is developing a model for selecting and engaging participants in future Targeted Topics Forums (TTFs). Assuming that a) participants in the first TTF are interested in joining for another to build on the first, and b) it would be valuable to repeat the same format for another group of countries, the Network proposes a cohort approach to participation as outlined below.

**Background**

* The Network held its first TTF on July 1-2, 2015 with 28 participants from 14 countries, and plans to hold two TTFs per year for the next three years (for a total of six more events).
* Developing countries invited were asked to send a team of three representatives (a climate change focal point, a sector representative, and a planning/finance representative), although some countries were not able to send all three. This presented some challenges for participants as initial planning and facilitation assumed full country teams from each country represented.
* Feedback from participants and the Network Steering Committee has indicated an appetite for sustained and more in-depth engagement and knowledge sharing through future TTFs.

**Key Considerations**

* *Balancing breadth and depth*: Allowing opportunities for participants engaged through the first TTF to explore additional aspects of the NAP process in more depth, while considering the benefits of engaging a broader group of countries in TTFs.
* *Building commitment to TTFs*: Need to build commitment of participating countries to ensure full participation in TTFs, for example sending complete country teams and responsiveness to envisioned follow-up activities such as surveys and continued exchange among participants.
* *Role of development partner representatives*: Participants and organizers identified the need to clarify and build on the role of development partner representatives in TTFs.

**Recommendation: Cohort Model**

* The Secretariat proposes a cohort model to engage country participants in upcoming TTFs
* In this model, with two TTFs planned for 2016, one would be dedicated to building on previous learning with the existing cohort of countries (with the leeway to move some countries to the new cohort or add countries as appropriate), and one would be an introductory TTF with a new cohort of countries. Depending on participants’ interests and topics selected, the Network could then continue to engage two cohorts on a rotating basis for future TTFs, and/or bring in new cohorts as appropriate depending on emerging interests and lessons.
* Furthermore, this model would respond to the considerations outlined above in the following ways:
  + Responding to participants’ appetite for sustained engagement and more in-depth learning (*depth*) while providing opportunities for more countries to get involved, allowing a more comprehensive examination of the spectrum of NAP processes to emerge (*breadth*). Sustained and broad engagement is also crucial to the Network’s efforts to build a community of practice around NAP processes and a flexible curriculum to support them.
  + Setting a tone for *commitment* to TTF activities, for example, by asking countries who wish to be in a cohort to commit in advance to sending full country teams (to the extent appropriate depending on the country context), and developing a basis for engaging with participants on an ongoing basis regarding follow-up activities and surveys
  + Allowing the Secretariat and Management Team to invite *development partner representatives* based on representation in the cohort of countries where they provide NAP-relevant support (ie: matching development partner representatives with representatives of countries where they are active).