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Terms of Reference (ToR)
Call for Research Partnership Proposals 2025
Decarbonization for Development (DfD) Lab

Background

The Decarbonization for Development Lab (DfD Lab) is a research hub initiated by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) for academics and practitioners to collaborate on the development of effective decarbonization policies, especially in international trade and climate change issues, to achieve the economic advancement of developing countries amid climate change.

The world is facing uncertainty due to rapid shifts in global power dynamics. The United States' reciprocal tariffs, withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, and revocation of incentives for low-carbon technologies in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) have affected global climate action. On the other side, some economies like China maintaining their deployment of renewable energy and the European Union with its Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) keep pushing the world straight to a lower GHG emission world.

In the current situation, Indonesia should maintain its competitiveness in its traditional key products, such as crude palm oil, textiles, footwear, steel, and minerals, while also decarbonizing those value chains to compete in green and low-carbon markets. Indonesia should navigate its strategies not only domestically, but also internationally in regional and multilateral platforms. For instance, adding and improving green provisions and frameworks in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). Furthermore, Indonesia, along with other G20 and World Trade Organization members, can respond to global climate trade policies with a common understanding, highlighting commitments to multilateralism.

In response to that, the DfD Lab will conduct comprehensive studies and foster a scientific understanding of decarbonization and development amidst global uncertainty. It will also provide a platform for multidisciplinary researchers and practitioners with backgrounds in economics, international relations, politics, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to collaborate and contribute to practical policy recommendations. In the previous chapter, the DfD Lab successfully organized the first Research Partnership, a collaboration between research scholars and researchers from CSIS Indonesia. This year, we continue to open the *Call for Research Proposal*, with the theme of **“Navigating Decarbonization in the Global Geopolitics Oscillation.”**

This *Call for Research Proposal* aims to create collaboration between research scholars and researchers from CSIS Indonesia to comprehensively study the relationship between Indonesia's response to navigate its climate action, international trade, investment and industrial policies, green growth & development, and global uncertainty. This year, we are opening opportunities for



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authors to collaborate on proposals with similar themes. The research project aims to inform policy debates and ideas related to the topics and is expected to be published in a notable international journal.

List of Suggested Topics

The topics of the research proposal could be in the area of, but are not limited to, the following:

- Aligning Domestic Standards with Global Climate Rules: Strengthening Indonesia's Regulatory and Quality Infrastructure for Green Trade
- Evidence and Lessons Learned from Green Industrial Policies: Maintaining Competitiveness While Decarbonizing
- Building Private Sector Readiness: GHG Accounting, Emission Verification, and Green Certification
- Regional Platforms for Green Trade: Opportunities through ASEAN, RCEP, and Beyond
- Global Cooperation to Address Climate-Trade Policies: Responding to CBAM, EUDR, etc
- How Indonesia and Other Developing Countries Can Influence Emerging Climate-Trade Rules
- The Role of Middle Powers in Steering Dialogue Between Developed and Developing Economies
- Leveraging Trade & Industrial Policy for Energy Transition: Tariffs, Incentives, and Industrial Strategies
- Renewable Energy Supply Chain Resilience: Lessons for Indonesia and ASEAN
- Green Value Chains and Competitiveness: Opportunities in EVs, Solar, and Clean Manufacturing
- Greening the Digital Economy: Data Centers, AI, and Sustainable ICT Infrastructure
- Developing green competitiveness from local regions through green skills, low-carbon technologies, and climate policies

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Remuneration

The proposal that is eligible and selected for this study will receive a grant of Rp80,000,000.00. An additional award of Rp10,000,000.00 will be given for each paper that will be published in a selected journal.

Selection Criteria

Authors should submit a draft of the proposal of around 2,000 words that consists of:

- Paper title
- Author information (including co-authors): name, affiliation, address, email
- Research objective/questions



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- Methodology
- Preliminary data analysis
- Indicative timeline with the deliverables and work arrangement within the study period (work plan)
- Expected output/outcome

The submitted proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- The submitted proposal should clearly elaborate on the research question(s), detailed methodology, data source (s), work plan, and output.
- The proposal should be able to bridge research and policy rather than solely promote academic research.

Researchers tasked with studying the proposed and agreed topic should meet the following criteria:

- A researcher or group of researchers with up to three co-authors can submit proposals.
- While previous experience researching the topic is essential, it is not mandatory.
- A team comprising members from various institutions or organizations is preferable. If there are multiple applicants, the team leader must meet all the specified requirements.
- After being shortlisted for the next steps, researchers from CSIS Indonesia will match up with the selected teams.
- Researchers may submit multiple proposals; however, they can only serve as the team leader for one proposal and not for any others they submit.

Project Timeline and Procedure

The proposal and CV of the team members must be submitted by 3 October 2025 at 23:59 (GMT +7). Those documents should be submitted through <https://csis.or.id/O/CfP2025>

The research is expected to be conducted from October 2025 to June 2026, with the final deliverable of the reviewed working paper. The expected timeline is as follows:

- Contracting team members : October 2025
- First workshop : November – December 2025
- Second workshop/Draft paper submission : February – March 2026
- Final paper submission : April 2026
- Final review : April – May 2026
- Expected publication and conference : May – July 2026

Contact Person

All queries related to this ToR shall be emailed to climate@csis.or.id cc to ardhi.wardhana@csis.or.id and dandy.rafitrandi@csis.or.id