What is a CGI Commitment to Action?
A Commitment to Action is a project, developed, and executed by Action Network members, that addresses a significant challenge in hurricane response and resiliency, such as increasing access to renewable energy, expanding health care services, or pre-positioning relief supplies. A commitment is a detailed project plan that includes clear and measurable objectives, a timeline and budget, and outlines the key steps required to achieve success. Commitments can be small or large, financial or non-monetary, and philanthropic or core business-related. Many commitments leverage new resources through cross-sector partnerships, with commitment-makers combining efforts to expand their impact.

What Defines a Commitment to Action?
At a minimum, every CGI commitment must meet five criteria:

- **New**: A CGI commitment must be a new project that addresses a key challenge related to hurricane recovery and resiliency. While ongoing work is not eligible, an expansion of a successful program with key new elements does qualify as a valid Commitment to Action.

- **Specific**: A CGI commitment must outline a specific approach to a problem, have clear and feasible objectives to be accomplished within a defined period of time, and articulate the desired outcome of the effort.

- **Measurable**: A CGI commitment must have specific quantitative goals that can be monitored by the commitment-maker to evaluate progress over time.

- **Viable**: A CGI commitment must present a plan to secure sufficient monetary and/or nonmonetary resources to carry out the core function of the project over its full duration.

- **Accountable**: A CGI commitment must track quantitative and qualitative progress and report annually to CGI to show the extent of the project’s impact.

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"Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Caribbean community are in need, and we must answer that call. We have a responsibility to act, for the people who are still suffering, and for all the future generations in the region."

—President Bill Clinton

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**Why Make or Partner on a Commitment to Action?**

No matter the size or scope, commitments serve as a tool for the Action Network to translate goals into practical and measurable action to advance recovery and promote long-term resiliency across the region. The CGI platform and staff offer support throughout the commitment development process and beyond to elevate the incredible efforts of our commitment-makers.

- **Access:** Making or partnering on a commitment is core to membership in the Action Network. The process gives you access to a community of like-minded organizations and helps guide and facilitate your engagement within the network.
- **Aligned Partnerships:** CGI works to identify potential partners within the Action Network that are strategically aligned to the project’s objectives and can join to support as a partner on the commitment.
- **Credibility:** CGI conducts comprehensive vetting of Action Network members and commitments to ensure that only credible projects are launched by CGI.
- **Visibility:** CGI offers a range of opportunities to showcase and amplify the work of commitment-makers and communicate results.
- **Support:** CGI supports the development of quality commitments by identifying partners and resources to address gaps in the project concept, providing feedback and guidance, and helping overcome potential barriers during project implementation.
What is the Commitment to Action Development Process?

Commitments are developed in a three-phase process. As a community aimed at driving action in the region, CGI expects all members of the Action Network on Post-Disaster Recovery to have made or partnered on a Commitment to Action within one year of initial engagement.

### Phase 1

1. **Engagement**: The Action Network aims to create a platform for members to convene, connect, and coordinate action. Elements of engagement by members include, but are not limited to:
   - Participating in CGI-hosted conversations around specific topic areas;
   - Attending quarterly meetings; and/or
   - Communicating with CGI staff and Action Network members offline to advance discussions and efforts.

2. **Project Concept**: Action Network members form a project idea that addresses a significant challenge in advancing hurricane response and resiliency. During this process, CGI staff will provide support to members by:
   - Discussing the project idea and offering suggestions to refine, structure, and enhance it;
   - Brainstorming partnership opportunities (if partners are needed), including identifying potential partners within CGI’s network;
   - Reviewing the commitment process and criteria; and
   - Inviting commitment-makers to fill out a concept note to indicate interest in turning the project idea into a Commitment to Action.

### Phase 2

3. **Commitment Development**: With a concept identified, commitment-makers will complete the Commitment to Action form. The form guides a commitment-maker through the process of describing key objectives, the implementation strategy, timeline and budget, and outlining quantifiable measures of success for tracking the progress of the commitment.

4. **Commitment Review**: CGI staff will review the Commitment to Action form and work with commitment-makers to ensure that it effectively meets CGI’s criteria. CGI staff will provide tracked revisions on the form, and typically discuss feedback with commitment-makers via phone calls. This is an iterative process and it may take three to four drafts before the commitment can be finalized and approved by CGI.

5. **Commitment Finalization**: After revisions are incorporated, CGI will finalize the commitment through an approval process to ensure that all commitment requirements are met. Once approved, the commitment will be posted on the CGI website.

6. **Featuring Consideration**: Select commitments will also be identified for formal featuring at quarterly meetings and should not be publicly announced until the day they are featured at the meeting to preserve their newsworthiness. Additionally, commitments can be featured through the following approaches:
   - Clinton Foundation online platforms and social media
   - Media pitching or placement
   - Announcements at Action Network meetings
   - Workshopping at Action Network meetings
   - Visits by Clinton Foundation officials to commitment sites

### Phase 3

7. **Annual Reporting**: CGI solicits annual progress updates from commitment-makers for the duration of the Commitment to Action. Commitments that do not report on their status may be deemed unresponsive and ineligible for featuring opportunities.
Frequently Asked Questions

• What is the role of CGI in developing and executing Commitments to Action?
CGI provides a platform and community for cultivating Commitments to Action. Our staff support commitment-makers throughout the Commitment Development Process by identifying potential partners and resources, advising on gaps and opportunities in the project concept, providing feedback and guidance, and bringing visibility to the project. Once the Commitment to Action is underway, CGI works with commitment-makers to obtain annual progress reports. CGI does not fund, manage, or implement Commitments to Action.

• Does the expansion of an existing program qualify as a Commitment to Action?
While ongoing work is not eligible, an expansion of a successful program with key new elements does qualify as a valid Commitment to Action.

• If my project idea is formed outside of the CGI platform, can it still be developed into a Commitment to Action?
Yes, CGI encourages project ideas developed outside the Action Network to be brought to CGI for additional support and advancement. However, CGI does ask that the project has not been announced publicly prior to finalizing it as a Commitment to Action.

• Do I need to have partnerships to develop a Commitment to Action?
No, CGI does not require commitment-makers to carry out their project in partnership with other organizations. However, CGI does encourage partnerships as it has been found that commitments with partnerships have a higher success in reaching their goals.

• Does my project need to be fully funded to be submitted as a Commitment to Action?
While secured funding is not a strict requirement, CGI has found that commitments with at least 30% of funding secured by the Commitment Finalization stage are more likely to be carried out successfully.