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2020 EDITION

POCKET GUIDE TO NDCs

UNDER THE UNFCCC

ecbi

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UNEP DTU PARTNERSHIP

UN environment programme

NDC ACTION

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FOREWORD

For over a decade, the European Capacity Building Initiative (ecbi) has adopted a two-pronged strategy to create a more level playing field for developing countries in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): training negotiators from developing countries; and providing opportunities for senior negotiators from developing countries and Europe to interact, understand each other's positions, and build mutual trust.

The first part of the strategy focuses on providing training and support to new developing country negotiators, particularly from Least Developed Countries. The climate change negotiations are often technical and complex, and difficult for new negotiators (who are most often not climate specialists) to fully grasp even over a period of two or three years. We hold regional training workshops to bring them up to speed on the negotiations. We also organise training workshops before each Conference of Parties (COPs) to the UNFCCC, covering topics specific to that COP. To ensure continuity in our capacity building efforts, we offer bursaries to a few women negotiators to attend the negotiations and represent their country and region/grouping. Finally, we help negotiators build their analytical capacity through our publications, by teaming them up with global experts to author policy briefs and background papers.

This strategy has proven effective over time. "New" negotiators that trained in our early regional and pre-COP workshops have risen not only to become senior negotiators in the process, but also leaders of regional groups and of UNFCCC bodies and committees, and ministers and envoys of their countries. These individuals remain part of our growing alumni, and are now capacity builders themselves, aiding our efforts to

train and mentor the next generation. Their insights from once being new to the process themselves have helped us improve our training efforts.

The second ecbi strategy relies on bringing senior negotiators from developing countries and from Europe together, at the annual Oxford Seminars and the Bonn Seminars. These meetings provide an informal space for negotiators to try to understand the concerns that drive their specific national positions, and come up with solutions to drive the process forward. They have played a vital role in resolving some difficult issues in the negotiations.

Following the adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015, ecbi produced Guides to the Agreement in English and in French. Since they proved popular with both new and senior negotiators, we developed this series of thematic Pocket Guides, to provide negotiators with a brief history of the negotiations on the topic; a ready reference to the key decisions that have already been adopted; and a brief analysis of the outstanding issues from a developing country perspective. These Guides are mainly web-based and updated frequently. Although we have printed copies of the English version of the Guides due to popular demand (please write to us if you would like copies), the online versions have the added advantage of hyperlinks to access referred material quickly.

As the threat of climate change grows rather than diminishes, developing countries will need capable negotiators to defend their threatened populations. The Pocket Guides are a small contribution to the armoury of information that they will need to be successful. We hope they will prove useful, and that we will continue to receive your feedback.

Anju Sharma

Deputy Managing Director, Oxford Climate Policy and Head,
Communications and Policy Analysis Programme, ecbi

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADP	Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action
APA	Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement
AWG-LCA	Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention
BAU	Business as usual
BTRs	Biennial transparency reports
CMA	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement
COP	Conference of the Parties
DCC	Dynamic Contribution Cycle
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHGs	Greenhouse gases
$GtCO_2e$	Gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent
ICTU	Information to facilitate clarity, transparency, and understanding
ITMOs	Internationally transferred mitigation outcomes
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contributions
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LEDS	Long-term low GHG emission development strategies
$MtCO_2e$	Megatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent
MPGs	Modalities, procedures, and guidelines
NAMAs	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions
NAPs	National Adaptation Plans

NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NIR	National inventory report
OMGE	Overall mitigation in global emissions
PAWP	Paris Agreement Work Programme
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
TACCC	Transparency, accuracy, comparability and consistency
TER	Technical expert review
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

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WHAT ARE NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS?

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are actions that Parties to the Paris Agreement plan to undertake to address climate change. A Party's "contribution" to address climate change is "nationally determined" according to its national circumstances and priorities. This terminology was adopted to emphasise the "bottom-up" (nationally determined) nature of the contributions that countries make to the global effort to address climate change, as opposed to a "top-down" (globally determined) approach.

The Paris Agreement requires Parties to undertake and communicate their post-2020 efforts in the form of NDCs and to communicate their first NDCs no later than when the Party formally joins the Paris Agreement (Decision 1/CP.21, §22). However, if a Party had already submitted an *Intended* Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) before joining the Paris Agreement, this automatically became its first NDC unless the Party chose to submit an updated NDC.

A country's NDC can include information on mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology transfer, capacity building, and transparency (Article 3). They are the main means for countries to communicate their plans for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (Article 4). The collective mitigation actions of Parties contained in all the NDCs will determine whether the world will achieve the long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement – to "[hold] *the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels*" (Article 2.1.a).

WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF NDCS UNDER THE UNFCCC?

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), adopted in 1992, called on Parties to stabilise GHGs in the atmosphere "*…at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system…*", and "*within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner*". The UNFCCC did not, however, include any specific reduction targets for countries. These were subsequently negotiated for Annex I Parties in the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, with targets ranging from -8% to +10% of Parties' emission levels compared to 1990.[1]

As the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol came to an end in 2012, negotiations for a successor instrument began. In these negotiations, some developed countries such as the US opposed what is sometimes (arguably) called a "top-down" determination of targets, and pressed instead for "*national determination"* of climate ambition.[2]

Many developing countries initially opposed taking on reduction targets in the Kyoto Protocol's successor, calling instead for developed countries, with greater responsibility to reduce their emissions and allowing developing countries the "atmospheric space" to develop. They eventually gave in to pressure from developed countries and agreed to take on "*nationally appropriate mitigation actions*" (or NAMAs), *"supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity-building, in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner…*"

in the 2007 Bali Action Plan, adopted at the 13th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP13).[3]

In the Bali Action Plan, Parties to the UNFCCC decided to launch a comprehensive process conducted by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA) to "*enable the full, effective, and sustained implementation of the UNFCCC through long-term cooperative action, up to and beyond 2012, in order to reach an agreed outcome and adopt a decision*" at COP15 in 2009, in Copenhagen.

However, Parties did not succeed in concluding their negotiations at COP15. The work of the AWG-LCA was extended for one year each at COP16 and COP17 respectively, and finally concluded at COP18. Significant decisions were made at COP16 and COP17 under different thematic areas of the Bali Action Plan such as enhanced actions on adaptation, enhanced actions on developed and developing countries' mitigation as well as finance, technology, and capacity building. Importantly, at COP17 in Durban, Parties decided to "*launch a process to develop a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties*" (Decision 1/CP.17, §2). The Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) was launched to oversee this process, which was concluded with the adoption of Paris Agreement at COP21 in 2015.

INDCs were first mentioned at COP19 in Warsaw in 2013. All Parties were invited to "*…initiate or intensify domestic preparation for the* ***intended nationally determined contributions*** *… in the context of adopting a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force … and to communicate them well in advance of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (by the first quarter of 2015 by those*

Parties ready to do so) in a manner that facilitates the clarity, transparency and understanding of the intended contributions, without prejudice to the legal nature of the contributions" (Decision 1/CP.19, §2.b).[4] However, the decision provided no guidance on the elements or format of an INDC.

The Lima Call for Climate Action adopted at COP20 in 2014 reiterated this invitation to Parties to submit INDCs, and further stated that the INDCs should "…*represent a progression beyond the current undertaking of that Party*" (Decision 1/CP.20, §10).[5] Parties were also invited to consider communicating their adaptation activities and include adaptation components in their INDCs. Flexibility was provided to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) – in light of their special circumstances, they could communicate information on strategies, plans, and actions. COP20 also called on Parties to provide further information to "*facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding*" (ICTU).

Switzerland was the first country to submit an INDC on 27 February 2015. By 1 October 2015, 119 INDCs by 147 Parties (including the EU, a single Party representing 28 EU countries at that time) were submitted, representing 86% of global emissions in 2010.[i] By 4 April 2016, the number of INDCs rose to 161 by 189 Parties, representing 96% of all Parties to UNFCCC and 99% of the emissions of all UNFCCC Parties.

i The UK left the EU on 1 January 2020.

WHAT DOES THE PARIS AGREEMENT SAY ON NDCS?

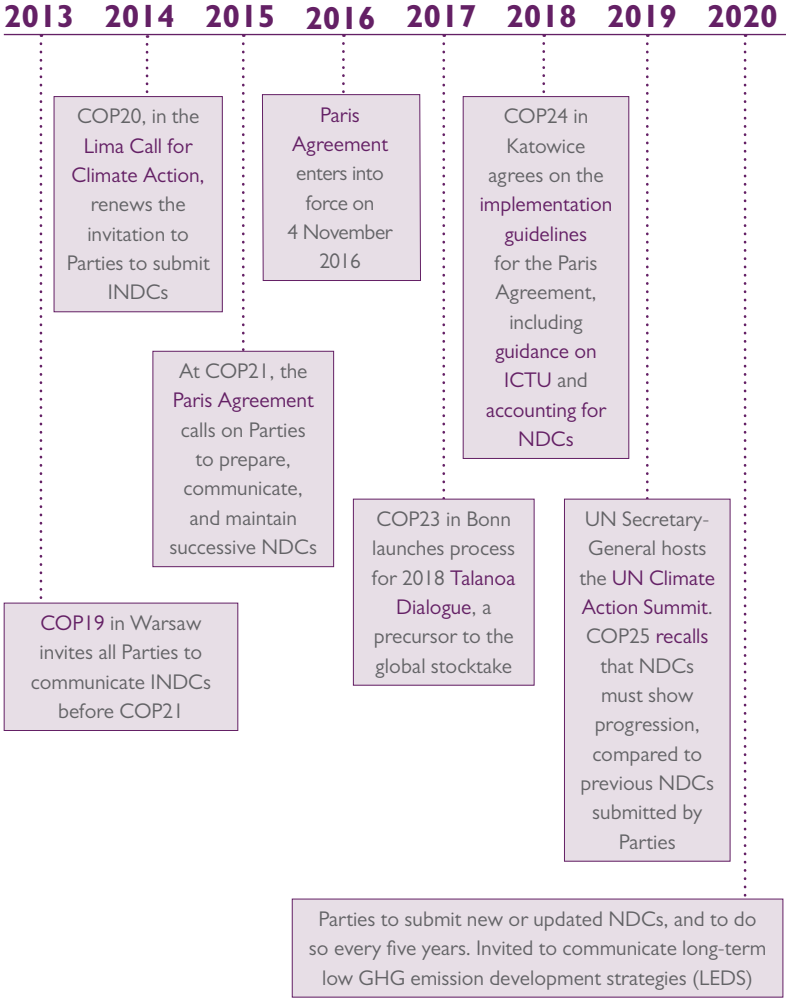
Although Parties had already started submitting INDCs before COP21 started in Paris in November 2015 in response to the 2013 Warsaw Decision, fundamental issues related to NDCs remained to be resolved in Paris. This included, for instance: the terminology (some countries still wanted to use "commitments" instead of "contributions"); whether the implementation of NDCs should be legally binding; whether each NDC should represent a progression, without "backsliding" to lower ambition over time; what elements the NDCs should include (only mitigation or also adaptation and means on implementation); and whether the implementation of NDCs by developing countries should be conditional to the provision of finance by developed countries.[6]

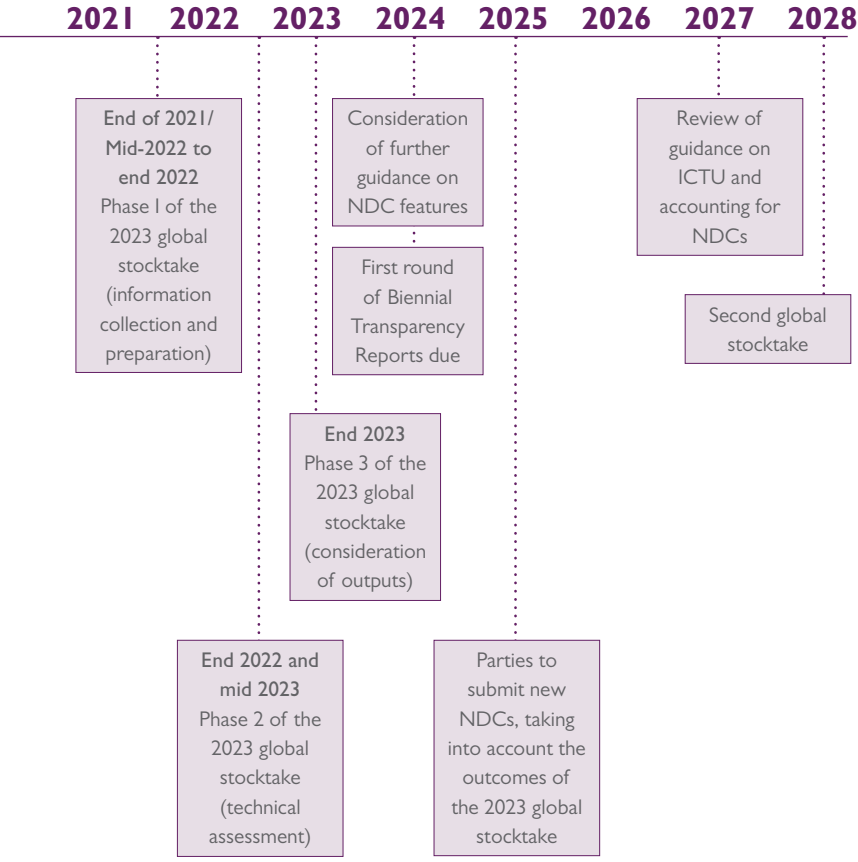
In the end, the NDCs became a foundational element of the Agreement, and the basis for countries to achieve its overall goals, stated in Article 2, to:

- Limit warming to well below 2°C and pursue efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels (Article 1.a).
- Enhance adaptation and climate resilience efforts (Article 1.b).
- Make financial flows consistent with a pathway towards low emissions and climate-resilient development (Article 1.c).

The overarching NDC-based approach is provided in Article 3 of the Paris Agreement, which calls for ambitious NDCs, representing progression over time, while recognising the need to support developing country Parties for their effective implementation.

TIMELINE


2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
COP20, in the Lima Call for Climate Action, renews the invitation to Parties to submit INDCs
Paris Agreement enters into force on 4 November 2016
COP24 in Katowice agrees on the implementation guidelines for the Paris Agreement, including guidance on ICTU and accounting for NDCs
At COP21, the Paris Agreement calls on Parties to prepare, communicate, and maintain successive NDCs
COP23 in Bonn launches process for 2018 Talanoa Dialogue, a precursor to the global stocktake
UN Secretary-General hosts the UN Climate Action Summit. COP25 recalls that NDCs must show progression, compared to previous NDCs submitted by Parties
COP19 in Warsaw invites all Parties to communicate INDCs before COP21
Parties to submit new or updated NDCs, and to do so every five years. Invited to communicate long-term low GHG emission development strategies (LEDS)



The future timeline could be affected by the Covid-19 lockdown, and the postponement of COP26.

Article 4 goes into greater detail on the NDCs, stating, *inter alia*, that:

- Each Party shall prepare, communicate, and maintain successive NDCs (Article 4.2).
- Each Party's successive NDC will represent a progression beyond the Party's current NDC, and reflect its highest possible ambition, reflecting its common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances (Article 4.3).
- Developed country Parties should continue taking the lead by undertaking economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets. Developing country Parties should continue enhancing their mitigation efforts, and are encouraged to move over time towards economy-wide emission reduction or limitation targets in the light of different national circumstances (Article 4.4).
- Support shall be provided to developing country Parties for the implementation of this Article (Article 4.5).
- LDCs and SIDS have the flexibility to prepare and communicate strategies, plans, and actions for low GHG emissions development (Article 4.6).
- All Parties shall provide the information necessary for clarity, transparency, and understanding, or ICTU (Article 4.8).
- Each Party shall communicate an NDC every five years (Article 4.9).
- NDCs communicated by Parties shall be recorded in a public registry maintained by the UNFCCC secretariat (Article 4.12).
- In accounting for their anthropogenic emissions and removals corresponding to their NDCs, Parties shall promote environmental integrity, transparency, accuracy,

completeness, comparability and consistency, and ensure the avoidance of double counting (Article 4.13).

Article 6 discusses the use of "voluntary cooperation" to implement NDCs, through the use of "internationally transferred mitigation outcomes" (ITMOs); a sustainable development mechanism; and non-market approaches to sustainable development.

Article 7 states that adaptation communications can be submitted as components of, or in conjunction with, NDCs (or National Adaptation Plans or National Communications).

Article 13.5 describes the purpose of the Agreement's "*framework for transparency of action*"– to provide a clear understanding of climate change action, including, *inter alia*, clarity and tracking of progress towards achieving Parties' NDCs. In this context, Article 13.7(b) calls on Parties to provide information necessary to track progress in implementing and achieving NDCs. This information will be subject to a technical expert review, or TER (Article 13.11). Article 13.6 further describes the purpose of the "*framework for transparency of support*" – to provide clarity on support provided and received, including support for implementing Article 4, on the NDCs (and other elements that can be included in NDCs, such as adaptation).

Article 14, which calls for a global stocktake every five years to take stock of the implementation of the Agreement, states that the outcome of the stocktake shall inform Parties in updating and enhancing their NDCs.

The Paris Agreement's threshold for entry into force was reached on 5 October 2016, with more than 55 countries representing 55% of global GHG emissions, having deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval, or

accession. The Paris Agreement then entered into force 30 days after, on 4 November 2016.

As of 7 March 2020, 189 Parties had ratified the Paris Agreement out of 197 Parties to the UNFCCC, and 186 Parties have submitted their first NDCs. INDCs were automatically converted into NDCs following the ratification of the Paris Agreement – only a few countries chose to revise their INDCs before submitting them as NDCs. Some Parties made only cosmetic revisions (such as changes in titles or the addition of more detail), while others, such as Morocco also updated their contribution. Countries that had chosen not to submit INDCs (it was not a legal obligation to do so before the adoption of the Agreement) – including the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Panama, and the State of Palestine – also submitted NDCs after ratification.

To date, few countries, such as, Suriname, Republic of Moldova, Norway, Japan, Chile, and Singapore, have submitted a second or updated NDC. For instance, Norway increased its ambition from 40% reduction of GHG emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 in the first NDC, to an economy-wide GHG emissions reduction of at least 50% and towards 55% compared to 1990 levels by 2030. Moldova increased its ambition to a 70% reduction in GHG emissions from 1990 levels in 2030, instead of the 64-67% reduction in its INDC. The NDCs of Japan and Singapore, meanwhile, do not include an increase of ambition (although Singapore states that its updated NDC is economy-wide, the INDC also covered 100% of its emissions).

WHAT IS THE NDC CYCLE?

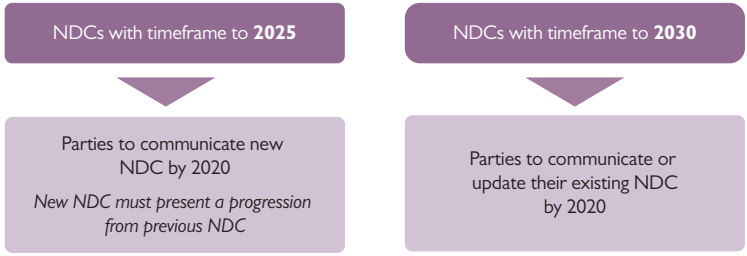
The Paris Agreement establishes a cycle of planning, implementation, and review for NDCs, whereby Parties:

- Develop and communicate NDCs to the UNFCCC.
- Implement them, and monitor implementation at the national level.
- Report on implementation to the UNFCCC, as part of the Agreement's "enhanced transparency framework", for international expert review.
- Participate in a "global stocktake" every five years to assess collective (global) progress towards achieving the goals of the Agreement.
- Use the information from the global stocktake for their next round of NDCs.

This cycle also includes a compliance committee, whose mandate is to facilitate implementation of the provisions of the Agreement (including the NDCs) and to promote compliance.

The Agreement states that Parties have to communicate NDCs every five years from 2020 onwards (Article 4.9), irrespective of their implementation time frames. Without specific guidance on implementation time frames, the time frames chosen by countries for their INDCs (before Paris) varied, with the majority of countries choosing either a five-year or ten-year time frame. Paris Decision 1/CP.21 tried to accommodate both – §23 calls on Parties with a time frame up to 2025 in their INDCs to submit a new NDC by 2020, and §24 calls on Parties with a time frame up to 2030 to simply update their NDC by 2020 (see **Figure 1**).

Figure 1: Requirements for Parties with five- and ten-year NDCs



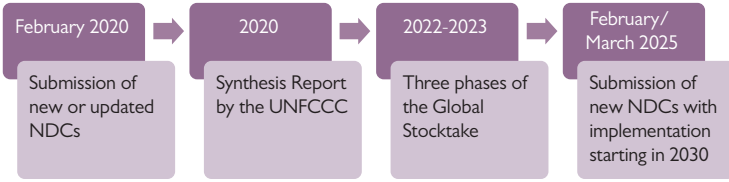
A Party can update its NDC at any time, as long as the update is more ambitious and does not "backslide" to lower ambition.

For each five-year cycle, Parties are expected to submit their NDCs at least 9-12 months in advance of the relevant session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA). The UNFCCC secretariat will then synthesise the NDCs in a report, which will be published before that CMA session.

The NDCs communicated by Parties are recorded in a public NDC registry maintained by the UNFCCC secretariat. While the specific modalities and procedures for the operation and use of this registry are currently being negotiated under the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), the NDCs are available in an NDC interim registry.

From 2023 onwards, a global stocktake will take place every five years to review collective progress towards achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement as specified in Article 14 of the Paris Agreement. The outcomes of this stocktake are expected to inform national efforts in preparing their next NDC – for instance, the 2023 stocktake will inform the NDCs to be submitted in 2025 (see **Figure 2**).

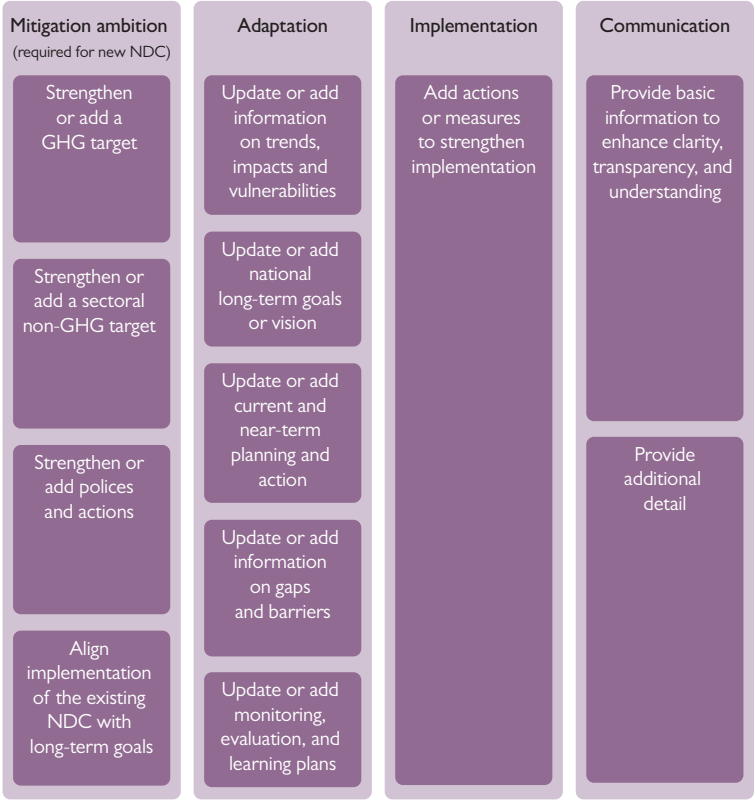
Figure 2: The first NDC cycle



NDCs can be updated at any time, as long as the update is a progression from the current NDC. The future timeline could be affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

For the first NDC cycle, Parties whose NDCs have an implementation time frame up to 2025 are requested to communicate new NDCs with enhanced mitigation ambition, representing a progression from their current NDCs. They can enhance their mitigation ambition by, for instance, strengthening or adding a GHG reduction target. While they can simultaneously strengthen the adaptation component, enhance ICTU, or add NDC implementation measures, these do not count towards enhanced mitigation ambition (see **Figure 3**).[7]

Figure 3: Different options for enhancing NDCs



Source: Fransen, T., Northrop, E., Mogelgaard, K. & Levin K. (2017). *Enhancing NDCs by 2020: Achieving the Goals of the Paris Agreement.* World Resources Institute.

WHAT WAS AGREED IN KATOWICE ON NDCS?

While the Paris Agreement provided an overarching framework to address climate change, more detailed implementation guidelines to operationalise the Agreement were still needed. Paris Decision 1/CP.21 mandated the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), and the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA), as well as other constituted bodies to undertake specific follow-up work under the Paris Agreement Work Programme (PAWP). COP22 in Marrakesh further requested the subsidiary and constituted bodies to accelerate their work on the PAWP and forward the outcomes to COP24 at the latest (Decision 1/CP.22).

The Katowice Climate Package containing these guidelines – also referred to as the implementation guidelines or the "Paris rulebook" – was subsequently adopted at COP24 in December 2018.[8] The rulebook provides more detailed guidance to Parties for, *inter alia*:

- Providing ICTU in their NDCs (Decision 4/CMA.1).
- Accounting for their NDCs (Decision 4/CMA.1).
- The adaptation communications, including as a component of NDCs (Decision 9/CMA.1).
- Measuring and reporting on GHG emissions, finance provided and received, and adaptation (Decision 18/CMA.1).
- The modalities and sources of input for the global stocktakes that will take place every five years (Decision 19/CMA.1).

- Modalities and procedures for facilitating implementation and promoting compliance (Decision 20/CMA.1).
- Modalities for the operation and use of public registries for the NDCs (Decision 5/CMA.1) and for adaptation communications (Decision 10/CMA.1).

Some issues related to NDCs could not be resolved in Katowice – in particular, relating to the "common time frames" for NDCs; the rules for Article 6 of the Agreement; and the features of NDCs. While Parties agreed to apply common time frames to their NDCs from 2031 onwards (Decision 6/CMA.1), they were unable to agree whether there will be a single, common time frame for all countries, or what the duration of the time frame/s will be. Discussion on this issue at COP25 in Madrid, in 2019, also failed to produce an outcome and will continue at COP26. Further guidance on the features of NDCs will be discussed in 2024 (§20, Decision 4/CMA.1).

WHAT SHOULD NDCS CONTAIN?

The Lima Call for Climate Action reiterated the call for Parties to communicate their INDCs "*towards achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2*" (§9) and inviting Parties to "*consider including an adaptation component*" (§12). Beyond this, it offered limited guidance on what information they should contain.

The most explicit provision on what an NDC should contain is in Article 4.2 of the Paris Agreement, which requires NDCs to include a mitigation contribution. Article 3 further states: "*As nationally determined contributions to the global response to climate change, all Parties are to undertake and communicate ambitious efforts as defined in Articles 4, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 13 with the view to achieving the purpose of this Agreement …*". This can be interpreted to mean that NDCs may contain components related to:

- Mitigation (Article 4).
- Adaptation (Article 7). The Lima Call for Climate Action also invited Parties to consider communicating adaptation elements in their NDCs.
- Finance (Article 9).
- Technology development and transfer (Article 10).
- Capacity building (Article 11).
- Transparency (Article 13).

WHAT IS ICTU IN NDCS?

Article 4.8 of the Paris Agreement states that all Parties shall provide "*information necessary for clarity, transparency, and understanding*" (ICTU) in their NDCs. Decision 1/CP.21 elaborated that ICTU should include, as appropriate, *inter alia*:

- Quantifiable information on the reference point (including, as appropriate, a base year).
- Time frames and/or periods for implementation.
- Scope and coverage of the NDC.
- Planning processes.
- Assumptions and methodological approaches, including for estimating and accounting for anthropogenic GHG emissions and, as appropriate, removals.
- How the Party considers that its NDC is fair and ambitious, in the light of its national circumstances.
- How the NDC contributes towards achieving the objective stated in UNFCCC Article 2.

The Paris Decision requested the APA to develop further guidance for ICTU, and this guidance was adopted in Katowice (Annex I, Decision 4/CMA.1) as part of the Paris rulebook.[9] Although this guidance relates mainly to the mitigation component of NDCs, the Katowice Decision clearly states that it is "*without prejudice to the inclusion of components other than mitigation*" in an NDC (§8). It further states that Parties may provide other information in NDCs. In particular, an adaptation communication may be submitted as a component of, or in conjunction with, an NDC. However, the lack of detailed guidance on adaptation-related ICTU could still be considered as diminishing the importance and

attention given to adaptation by some developing countries. The ICTU guidance also applies to adaptation measures that have mitigation co-benefits (§10, Decision 4/CMA.1). This provision is necessary because some Parties are expected to express their mitigation effort in whole, or in part, in the context of adaptation and economic diversification efforts that have mitigation co-benefits, rather than as mitigation efforts alone.[10]

During the negotiations for the Paris rulebook, developing countries had sought a "differentiated" approach for themselves, with more flexibility than for developed countries, due to their different capacities to provide ICTU. However, it was agreed that all countries "*shall*" provide ICTU to provide more clarity, and ensure comparability and mutual understanding among Parties. At the same time, since NDCs are nationally determined and each NDC is different, compromise language was introduced to allow different elements of ICTU to be applied only if it is applicable to the country's NDC. This consequently allows Parties to self-differentiate, by determining for themselves what information is applicable.[11] For instance, a country only needs to submit ICTU relevant to the sectors covered by its NDC, and relevant to the type of commitments included in the NDC (absolute GHG targets, targets compared to a business as usual (BAU) emissions scenario, GHG intensity targets, sectoral targets, etc.).[12]

While Parties are only required to use the ICTU guidelines starting with their second NDC, they are strongly encouraged to provide this information as soon as possible, including when communicating or updating NDCs by 2020. In Katowice, Parties also decided to initiate a review of the ICTU in 2024 for consideration and adoption by 2026.

WHAT ARE FEATURES OF NDCS?

Although the Paris Agreement makes no mention of the "features" of NDCs, Paris Decision 1/CP.21 requests the APA, in §26, to develop guidance on features of NDCs for adoption at CMA1. Different interpretations have since arisen of what NDC features are, what further guidance should entail, and whether the Decision refers to new or existing features. Article 4 of the Paris Agreement lists a number of NDC characteristics, but without referring to them as features. It states that NDCs should:

- Be communicated every five years.
- Represent a progression from previous NDCs.
- Represent the highest possible ambition (and, whenever required, be adjusted for that purpose).
- Include economy-wide emissions reduction targets (for developed countries).
- Move over time towards economy-wide emissions reduction or limitation targets (developing countries).
- Be informed by the outcomes of the global stocktake.
- Be accounted for in order to promote environmental integrity, transparency; ensure accuracy, completeness, comparability and consistency; and avoid double counting.

Some progress was made on NDC features at CMA1 in Marrakesh in 2016, but without formal output. Subsequently, in November 2017, the APA Co-Facilitators compiled an informal note to capture the different views expressed by Parties on NDC features, including both existing and new features, and elements for guidance and elaboration. Parties could not agree on this issue in Katowice in 2018. While some argued

in favour of further defining features, saying this will result in more uniformity in the NDCs, others argued that prescribing features will be inconsistent with the nationally-determined nature of NDCs.[13] Decision 4/CMA.1 consequently only notes that features of NDCs are "*outlined in the relevant provisions of the Paris Agreement*" (§19), and the issue was postponed for further consideration in 2024, presumably so that Parties can draw on lessons from the 2023 global stocktake.

WHAT ARE COMMON TIME FRAMES, AND WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

As noted earlier, the Paris Agreement states that successive NDCs shall be submitted every five years from 2020 (Article 4.9), and also states that common time frames for NDCs will be considered (Article 4.10).

While neither the Paris Agreement nor the Paris Decision defines the term "common time frames", a UNFCCC synthesis report on the aggregate effect of NDCs defines it as "*a time period in the future during which an objective included in an NDC is to be achieved*".[14]

The INDCs of different countries had varied time frames, as noted earlier – while most were until 2025 or 2030, some did not specify the starting date. In Katowice, Parties agreed that common time frames for NDCs will be implemented from 2031 onwards (§2, Decision 6/CMA.1), but could not agree on the actual duration of those time frames. At COP25 in December 2019 in Madrid, Parties discussed a list of 10 options, but once again failed to reach agreement. Discussions will continue at the next session of the SBI.

The issue has proven difficult because of its implications for overall ambition and equity. A single common time frame for all countries can ensure that:

- There is a common point in time when all countries are expected to re-visit the ambition in their NDCs. This will ensure that all countries face the same pressure to present ambitious NDCs at the same time.

- NDCs will end at the same time, so all Parties can assess the achievement of their NDCs at the same time, and inform the global stocktake in a uniform manner.

The length of the common time frame is also critical. A shorter common time frame has several benefits:

- It will ensure that the NDC cycle of the Paris Agreement aligns with the five-year cycle of the global stocktake. All countries will then be expected to act on each global stocktake (which may not be the case if some countries have ten-year time frames).
- It can ensure that NDCs do not become outdated and locked in low ambition, but keep up with technological and social changes.

A possible compromise that tries to combine the five- and ten-year time frames, in a way that does not compromise equity and ambition in the NDCs, is the proposal for a "Dynamic Contribution Cycle" (DCC). Under the DCC, Parties simultaneously communicate, every five years, a finalised (updated) five-year NDC adopted by national governments, and a subsequent +5 year (indicative) NDC which need not be formalised through national processes (parliamentary approval etc). This allows time for the indicative +5 year NDC to be revisited by countries (in the light of equity, ambition shown by their peers, technological and social changes, etc.) before it receives parliamentary approval and is communicated as a formal NDC.[15]

HOW WILL PARTIES ACCOUNT FOR THEIR NDCS?

After NDCs have been implemented, Parties will need to account for the progress made in implementing them. This will not only allow Parties to track their own progress, but also the progress made by other Parties, and the collective or aggregate progress made by all Parties. However, this is not an easy task – the diversity of approaches employed by Parties in their NDCs makes it difficult to provide "one size fits all" guidance to track NDC progress, and to compare and aggregate this progress.

The Paris Agreement includes a number of provisions that relate to accounting for mitigation targets in NDCs:

- **Up-front information when submitting NDCs**: Article 4.8 of the Paris Agreement requires Parties to present ICTU when they communicate their NDCs, to ensure that Parties define their NDCs with sufficient precision to enable both *ex ante* assessment of ambition, and *ex post* determination of implementation and achievement.
- **Accounting of NDCs**: Article 4.13 requires Parties to account for their NDCs to avoid double counting, and promote environmental integrity and "*transparency, accuracy, comparability and consistency*" (sometimes referred to as TACCC), in accordance with guidance adopted by the CMA.
- **Accounting of ITMOs**: Article 6.2 requires Parties, when using ITMOs, to promote sustainable development, ensure environmental integrity and transparency, and apply robust accounting to ensure, *inter alia*, the avoidance of double counting.

- **Reporting on transparency of action and support through common modalities, procedures, and guidelines (MPGs)**: Article 13.7 requires Parties to provide information on their emission inventories, and information necessary to track progress in implementing and achieving their NDCs.

The detailed guidance for accounting for these elements was agreed in Decision 4/CMA.1 and Decision 18/CMA.1. This guidance has to be applied to the second and subsequent NDCs of Parties, though they are also encouraged to use it for their first (2020) NDC. The guidelines will be reviewed in 2027, with a view to adopt revised guidelines by 2028. Decision 4/CMA.1 includes:

- Guidance for ICTU of NDCs in Annex I.
- Guidance for accounting for anthropogenic emissions and removals in Annex II.

The guidance calls for accounting in a way that promotes environmental integrity and TACCC, and ensures the avoidance of double counting. Parties are required to account for anthropogenic emissions and removals using the methodologies and metrics in the 2006 Guidelines of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). These guidelines give Parties flexibility to use estimation methods at three levels of detail, from Tier 1 (the default method) to Tier 3 (the most detailed method).

Parties can therefore use methods tailored to their resources and focus on emissions and removals that contribute most significantly to national emissions. Moreover, if a Party's NDC cannot be accounted for using the IPCC methodologies, the Party is allowed to use "*nationally appropriate*" methodologies,

as long as these are consistent with IPCC methodologies and are explained transparently. Parties are encouraged to apply consistent methodologies and to report any changes to methodologies used during the implementation of their NDCs.

Parties should also to "*strive*" to avoid overestimating or underestimating projected emissions and removals used for accounting, and to include all categories of anthropogenic emissions and removals in their NDCs. Where a Party includes a particular category of emissions or removals, it is required to continue including that category – or provide an explanation if it is excluded.

Thus, while the accounting guidelines include a strong push for Parties to use IPCC methodologies and metrics, and to transparently explain their choices, they also provide flexibility, allowing Parties to use their own methodologies if required by their NDCs, as long as it is justified and reported transparently.[16]

Decision 18/CMA.1, meanwhile, provides the MPGs for transparency of action and support, referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement. In the absence of guidelines for implementing Article 6 on cooperative approaches, it also includes valuable guidance for accounting for Article 6 activities.

The key provisions on accounting in the Paris Agreement and other relevant decisions are summarised in **Tables 1-3**.[17]

Table 1: ICTU while communicating NDCs

PARIS AGREEMENT	DECISION 1/CP.21	IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES
Article 4.8: In communicating their NDCs, all Parties shall provide ICTU.	[§27-28 provide further implementation guidance]	**Decision 4/CMA.1, §7:** In communicating their second and subsequent NDCs, Parties shall provide the ICTU contained in Annex I, as applicable to their NDCs. They are strongly encouraged to provide this information for their first NDCs, when communicating or updating them by 2020. **Decision 4/CMA.1, §18:** The review and, if necessary, update of ICTU of NDCs and the guidance for accounting for NDCs will take place at CMA10 in 2027 with a view to considering and adopting a decision on the matter at CMA11 in 2028. **Decision 4/CMA.1, Annex I:** Guidance for ICTU of NDCs.

Table 2: Provisions on accounting for NDCs

PARIS AGREEMENT	DECISION 1/CP.21	IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES
Article 4.13: Parties shall account for their NDCs. In accounting for anthropogenic emissions and removals corresponding to their NDCs, Parties shall promote environmental integrity, TACCC, and ensure the avoidance of double counting, in accordance with guidance adopted by the CMA.	**§31:** Requests APA to elaborate guidance for accounting for NDCs to ensure that: ■ Parties account for anthropogenic emissions and removals in accordance with methodologies and common metrics assessed by the IPCC and adopted by the CMA. ■ Parties ensure methodological consistency, including on baselines, between the communication and implementation of NDCs. ■ Parties strive to include all categories of anthropogenic emissions or removals in their NDCs and, once a source, sink or activity is included, continue to include it. ■ Parties provide an explanation of why any categories of anthropogenic emissions or removals are excluded. **§32:** Decides that Parties shall apply the guidance referred to in §31 to their second and subsequent NDCs. Parties may also elect to apply the guidance to their first NDCs.	**Decision 4/CMA.1, §13:** In accounting for anthropogenic emissions and removals corresponding to their NDCs under Article 4.13, Parties shall account for their NDCs in accordance with the guidance contained in Annex II. **Decision 4/CMA.1, §14:** Recalls §32 of Decision 1/CP.21 (see previous column). **Decision 4/CMA.1, §15:** In accounting for anthropogenic emissions and removals corresponding to their NDCs, Parties shall ensure the avoidance of double counting. **Decision 4/CMA.1, §16:** Each Party with an NDC that consists of mitigation co-benefits resulting from its adaptation action and/or economic diversification plans consistent with Article 4.7 of the Paris Agreement shall follow the guidance contained in Annex II as it relates to such mitigation co-benefits. **Decision 4/CMA.1, §18:** A review and, if necessary, updating of ICTU and guidance for accounting for NDCs will take place at CMA10 in 2027, with a view to considering and adopting a decision on the matter at CMA11 in 2028. **Decision 4/CMA.1, Annex II:** Accounting for Parties' NDCs, referred to in Decision 1/CP.21, §31.

Table 3: Provisions for tracking progress of NDCs

PARIS AGREEMENT	DECISION 1/CP.21	IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES
Article 13.7: Each Party shall regularly provide: a national inventory report (NIR) of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of GHGs, prepared using good practice methodologies accepted by the IPCC and agreed upon by the CMA; and information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving its NDC under Article 4. **Article 13.11:** The information submitted by each Party under §§7 and 9 of this Article shall undergo a technical expert review (TER).	[Paragraphs 91-98 provide further implementation guidance]	**Decision 4/CMA.1, §17:** Parties shall account for their NDCs in their biennial transparency reports (BTRs), including through a structured summary, consistent with the guidance provided pursuant to Article 13.7(b) of the Paris Agreement and any relevant guidance adopted by the CMA. **Decision 18/CMA.1:** MPGs for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.

HOW DOES ARTICLE 6 RELATE TO THE NDCS?

Article 6 describes cooperatives approaches that include two market approaches, and one non-market approach, for "*voluntary cooperation*", which Parties can use to achieve the ambition of their NDCs:

- Bilateral or multilateral cooperative approaches, where Parties can transfer ITMOs to facilitate the achievement of their NDCs (Article 6.2).
- A centrally governed crediting mechanism to support sustainable development under the auspices of the Paris Agreement (Article 6.4). Emission reduction units can be issued for activities authorised by Parties and then be acquired by other Parties.
- A framework to promote non-market approaches (Article 6.8).

As of 2019, 96 of the 185 Parties that have submitted NDCs plan to use carbon pricing as a tool to meet their commitments.[18] However, it has proven challenging to agree on the guidelines for Article 6, despite attempts at COP24 Katowice in 2018 and COP25 in Madrid in 2019. The key issues that remain to be resolved relate to whether:

- Emissions reductions under Article 6.4 will be subject to the same accounting provisions as the ITMOs generated under Article 6.2. There are disagreements on whether a host country's emissions will need to be adjusted ("corresponding adjustments") after the transfer of emissions reductions under Article 6.4 mechanism to avoid double counting.

- A "share of proceeds" levy to finance adaptation in vulnerable countries, already applicable to the Article 6.4 mechanism, will also apply to the Article 6.2 mechanism.
- The mandate to deliver "overall mitigation in global emissions" (OMGE) under Article 6.4 also applies to Article 6.2, and whether this means that a portion of the ITMOs would have to be cancelled to ensure OMGE.
- Countries will be allowed to trade in emissions reductions from sectors and gases that are not covered in their NDC.
- Emissions units from the market mechanisms used under the Kyoto Protocol will transition to the Paris Agreement – and if they do, how this will be done.[19]

The rules for implementing Article 6 can have a considerable impact on the ambition of the NDCs, and hence overall ambition under the Paris Agreement. If they can ensure environmental integrity, OMGE, and the avoidance of perverse incentives for Parties, Article 6 can unlock higher ambition, reduce costs, engage the private sector, and enable more widespread dissemination of finance, technology, and expertise. If, on the other hand, they are weak and lead to the generation of "hot air" (overstated mitigation outcomes that are then traded internationally), they could undermine the already low level of overall ambition, by allowing targets to be met on paper while emissions continue to rise in reality.

WHAT ARE CONDITIONAL AND UNCONDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS?

The distinction between unconditional and conditional contributions has been introduced mainly by developing countries in their NDCs. Broadly, unconditional contributions are those that countries will implement without any conditions, based on their own resources and capabilities. Conditional contributions are mitigation and/or adaptation contributions that countries can only implement if they are provided support (or "means of implementation") by the global community, or if certain other conditions are met. For instance, Morocco´s unconditional contribution is a 17% reduction below BAU emissions by 2030, and its conditional contribution is an additional 25% reduction below BAU by 2030. The conditions set down by countries in their NDCs include:

- **Provision of international financial and technical support:** Over 80% of the conditional contributions are linked to the provision of financial support for all or part of the proposed mitigation actions, although few NDCs clearly identify a specific figure for the finance required.
- **Collective ambition:** Several Parties indicate their willingness to increase their contributions if there is an increase in the collective ambition of NDCs. In all such cases, the conditions do not specify a precise level of required ambition, so the threshold for the realisation of the commitment remains unclear.
- **Rules of engagement:** Many NDCs link their level of ambition to the rules of engagement. For example, many NDC submissions indicate explicitly that the Parties will

use international flexibility mechanisms or market-based approaches to fulfil their contributions. For some countries, such as Mexico, the availability of such mechanisms is a specific condition for enhanced ambition.

- **General circumstances:** General statements on national circumstances were the vaguest conditions presented in some NDCs. For example, one NDC indicates that ambition enhancements would be considered "if circumstances allow".

The majority of countries have an explicit conditional component in their contribution. **Table 4** shows the proportion of all INDCs with conditional contributions (developing and developed countries).

Table 4: Proportion of INDCs with conditional contributions

NATURE OF CONTRIBUTION	PROPORTION OF INDCS
Including an explicitly conditional component	**78%**
Both conditional and unconditional	43%
Conditional only	33%
Partially conditional	2%
Not including an explicitly conditional component	**22%**
Explicitly unconditional only	3%
Unspecified	19%

Source: Day, T., Röser, F. & Kurdziel. M. (2016). Conditionality of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). International Partnership on Mitigation and MRV.

Of the 136 countries that make their NDCs conditional to the provision of at least one form of support, capacity building is the most frequently requested (113 NDCs), followed by mitigation finance (110), technology transfer (109), and adaptation finance (79). Among the conditions related to technology transfer, 70 countries request transfer of both mitigation and adaptation technology; 37 countries request mitigation technology only; and two countries (Peru and Tonga) request adaptation technology only.[20]

The conditional elements in NDCs do increase uncertainty with regard to the achievement of the goals of the Paris Agreement, but also offer the potential to increase ambition, beyond what is possible with the limited resources available in developing countries.

The provision of support from developed countries to developing countries is anchored both in the UNFCCC (Articles 4.4, 4.5 and 4.7) and the Paris Agreement (Articles 3, 4.5, 7.13, 9.1, 10.6, and 11.3). The Paris Agreement recognises "*…the need to support developing country Parties for the effective implementation of this Agreement*" (Article 3), and "*… that enhanced support for developing country Parties will allow for higher ambition in their actions*" (Article 4.5). Article 9 of the Agreement also clearly states that "*developed country Parties shall provide financial resources to assist developing country Parties with respect to both mitigation and adaptation in continuation of their existing obligations under the Convention*". Developing countries are expected to provide "*information on financial, technology transfer and capacity-building support needed and received under Articles 9, 10 and 11*" in the BTRs due in 2024 (Article 13.10).

Overall, the conditions that will allow the conditional elements to be implemented are not well defined in the NDCs

of developing countries, and further detail from countries requesting support will be useful.[21]

It should be noted, at the same time, that the cost of all the conditional elements put forward by developing countries – around US$ 4.1 trillion according to some estimates – is far too high even in the unlikely event that the developed country pledge of US$ 100 billion annually is kept.[22]

WHAT DO THE CURRENT NDCS INCLUDE?

Very little guidance was available when the INDCs were first submitted, before the adoption of the Paris Agreement. As a result of this, and also because of their "bottom-up" nationally-driven nature and differences in national circumstances, INDCs vary vastly in content, scope, form, and coverage. The main elements included in the INDCs related to mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation. This approach was endorsed by the Paris Agreement, which states that countries can undertake and communicate their efforts on mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology transfer, capacity building, and transparency as part of their NDCs (Article 3).

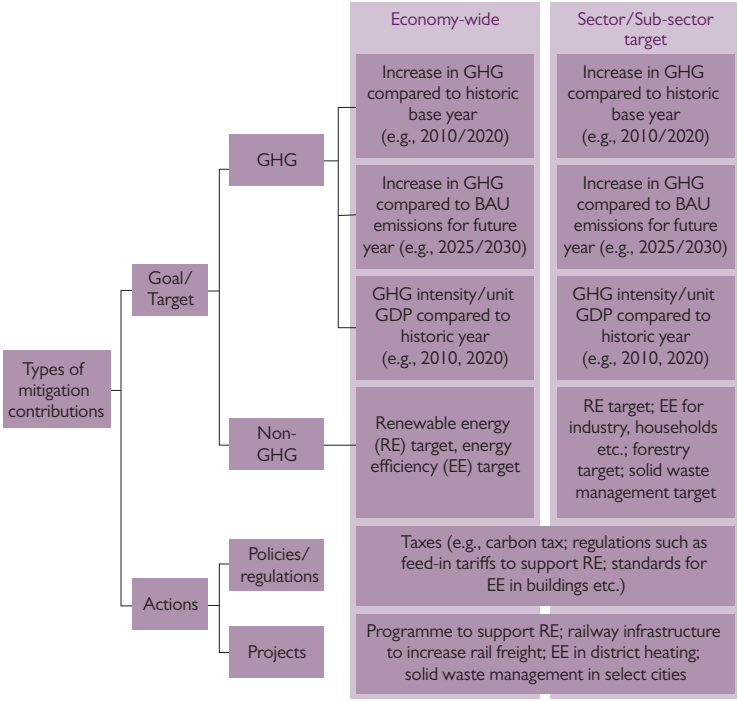
MITIGATION

Mitigation contributions are expressed in a variety of ways in NDCs. Many NDCs specify explicit GHG reductions targets, while others indicate general actions to be undertaken, or targets specified in non-GHG terms (such as technology penetration goals – see **Figures 4** and **5**). Broadly, these mitigation contributions can be classified into GHG targets and non-GHG targets.

GHG targets

These are pledges framed as explicit GHG targets, usually for a single year. Pledges may specify a specific numerical target, or a range or "corridor" for the emissions they will achieve. GHG targets have been expressed in a variety of ways in different NDCs – for instance, as absolute targets or relative targets.

Figure 4: Types of mitigation contributions in NDCs



Source: Bakkegaard, R. K., Bee, S., Naswa, P., Ngara, T., Olhoff, A., Sharma, S., & Desgain, D. (2015). *Developing INDCs: A guidance note*. UNEP DTU Partnership.

Absolute targets are pledges to achieve an absolute level of GHG emissions. These targets can be specified as either:

- Reductions from a base year level of emissions. For example, reducing emissions 20% below 2015 levels by 2030.
- Achievement of a fixed level of emissions. For example, reducing emissions to 400 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent ($MtCO_2e$) per year by 2030.
- Achievement of an emissions trajectory or range. For example, South Africa has pledged to achieve a "*peak, plateau, and decline*" emissions range that would keep GHG emissions between 398 and 614 $MtCO_2e$ between 2025 and 2030.

Relative targets are pledges to achieve GHG reductions relative to some (variable) reference point. Different formulations include:

- Reductions relative to a BAU scenario. For example, reducing GHG emissions 40% relative to what they otherwise would have been (in the absence of mitigation efforts) in 2030.
- Reductions in GHG intensity. For example, reducing GHG emissions per unit of GDP by 20% relative to the current emission rate.

Non-GHG targets

These are pledges framed in terms of technology goals or types of mitigation actions, with or without numerical targets attached. They include, for instance:

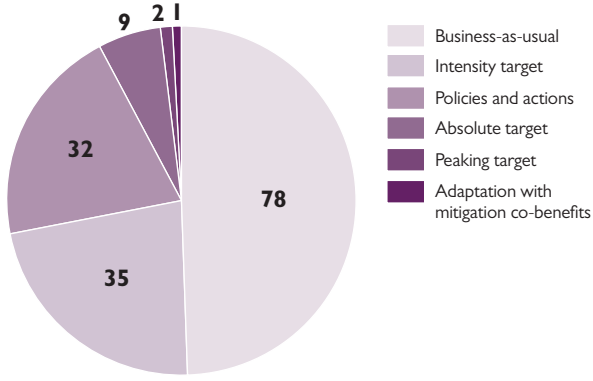
- Non-GHG quantitative targets, such as pledging to generate 40% of all electricity from renewables by 2030.
- Action-based targets. For example, The Gambia has pledged "*use of renewable energy sources in lighting,*

communication and health facilities, and for lifting water from wells and boreholes; and the Department of Forestry and local communities will continue to plant and care for trees annually".

Some countries have pledged a mix of both GHG and non-GHG targets.

Most NDCs have targets relative to BAU in their NDCs, followed by policies and actions, and absolute targets (see **Figure 5**). Low income countries favour BAU targets, followed by policies and actions (see **Figure 6**). Other income groups show more diversity, choosing absolute, intensity, and peaking targets. One country in the lower middle-income group chose an adaptation target with mitigation co-benefits. The majority of countries in the high income group chose absolute targets for their NDCs.

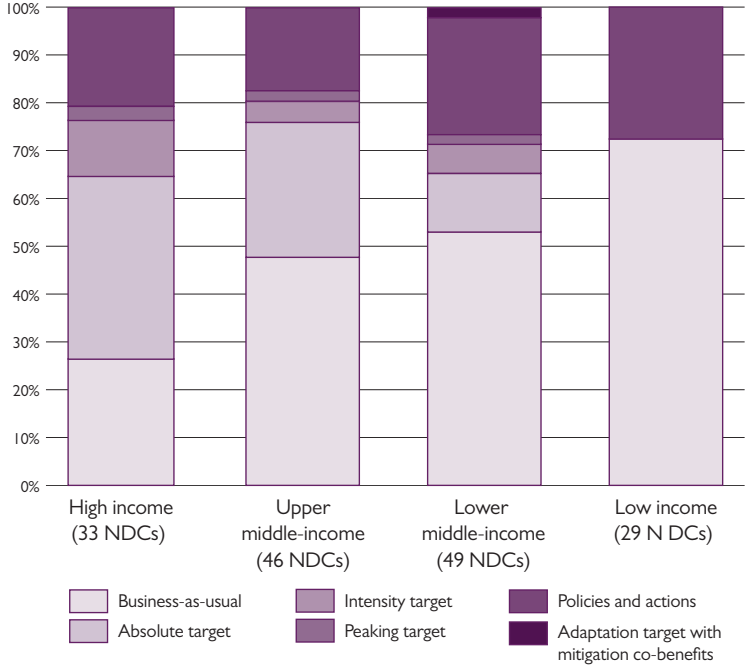
Figure 5: Type of targets in NDCs



Source: NDC Explorer

Article 4.4 of the Paris Agreement calls on developed country Parties to undertake economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets, and encourages developing country Parties to move over time towards economy-wide emission reduction or limitation targets in light of different national circumstances. The current diversity of NDC target types could therefore be seen as a starting point, with convergence toward economy-wide emission targets expected over time in subsequent NDCs.

Figure 6: Type of targets in NDCs per country income group (out of 157 NDCs)



Source: NDC Explorer

ADAPTATION

In addition to allowing Parties the flexibility to include adaptation elements in their NDCs, the Paris Agreement states that Parties can choose to submit their adaptation communications as part of their NDCs. (They can also choose to submit the adaptation communications as part of other submissions, including National Adaptation Plans or NAPs, BTRs, or National Communications).

A majority of countries (119 out of 157) chose to include an adaptation component in their NDCs, with developing countries giving it more prominence than developed countries. For instance, the EU's NDC does not include adaptation although most of its member states have national adaptation strategies and/or plans, and an EU-wide Adaptation Strategy has been developed. In contrast, all African countries include adaptation components in their NDCs, although the extent of the inclusion varies greatly – some countries dedicate almost the entire NDC to adaptation, while others include only a few lines.[23]

The adaptation content ranges from a summary of observed national impacts of climate change, to the identification of vulnerable sectors and priority adaptation needs; descriptions of ongoing and planned adaptation measures and actions; and the articulation of time-bound adaptation targets. Quantitative adaptation targets for one sector are included in 16 NDCs; for two or three sectors in 12 NDCs; and more than three sectors in nine NDCs.[24] All NDCs with an adaptation component include information on key impacts and vulnerabilities. The water sector comes out as the most vulnerable sector overall, followed by agriculture, health, ecosystem, and forestry.[25] Linkages between these sectors have also been described.

More than 60% of the countries with an adaptation component in their NDCs indicate that their adaptation action is partly or fully conditional to the provision of finance.[26] Loss

and damage due to climate change is mentioned eight times in the context of financial support, and 35 times overall. The NAPs are mentioned in 17 NDCs.[27]

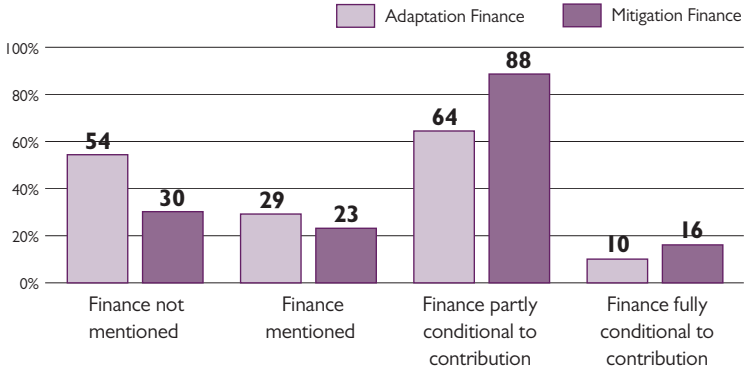
MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The vast majority of developing countries request assistance to fully implement their NDCs in the form of finance, technology transfer, and capacity building.

Finance

The mitigation elements are entirely conditional to the provision of finance in 16 NDCs (out of 157 NDCs), and partly conditional in 88 NDCs (see **Figure 7**). The adaptation elements are fully conditional to the provision of finance in 10 NDCs, and partly conditional in 64 NDCs. 30 NDCs do not mention mitigation finance, and 54 NDCs do not mention adaptation finance.

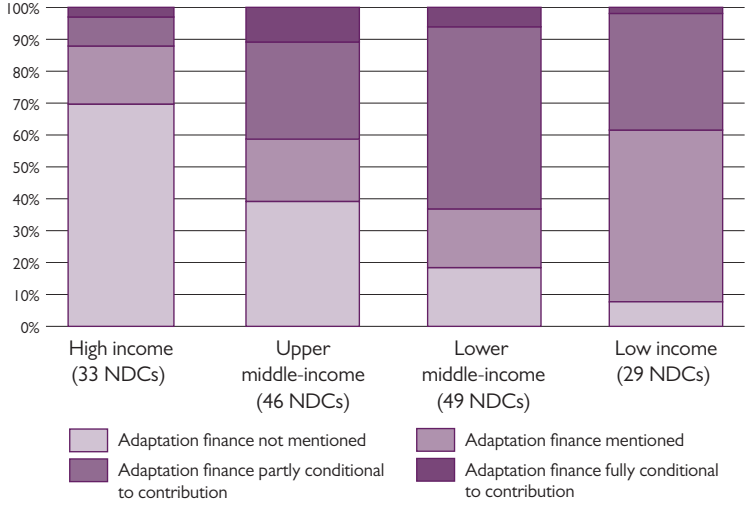
Figure 7: Number of NDCs with conditional adaptation and mitigation elements (out of 157 NDCs)



Source: NDC Explorer

While most low income and lower middle-income countries include adaptation elements that are conditional to the provision of finance in their NDCs (see **Figure 8**), there are a few countries that make their adaptation contributions fully conditional to the provision of adaptation finance across all four income groups. Equally, there are a number of countries whose NDCs do not mention adaptation finance across all four country income groups (including the low income group). Most countries with adaptation contributions that are fully conditional to the provision of adaptation finance belong to the upper middle-income group, followed by the lower middle-income group. The majority of countries within the high income group do not mention adaptation finance.

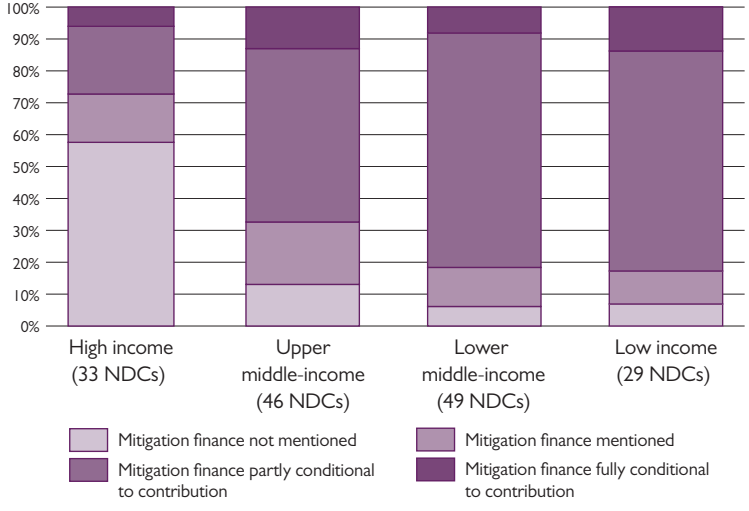
Figure 8: Number of NDCs with conditional adaptation elements, based on income groups (out of 157 NDCs)



Source: NDC Explorer

Most NDCs of low income, lower middle-income, and upper-middle income countries include mitigation contributions that are conditional to the provision of finance (see **Figure 9**). While there are a few countries whose mitigation contributions are fully conditional to the provision of finance across all four country income groups, the highest number of countries with fully conditional mitigation contributions belong to the upper middle-income group, followed by the low income and lower middle-income group. Equally, there are a number of countries whose NDCs do not mention mitigation finance across all four country income groups – even within the low income group.

Figure 9: Number of NDCs with conditional mitigation elements, based on income groups (out of 157 NDCs)

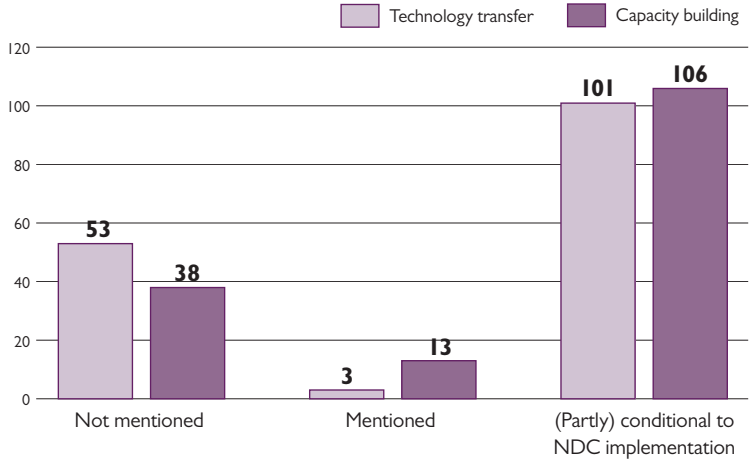


Source: NDC Explorer

Technology transfer and capacity building

The NDCs of 101 countries are (partly) conditional to the provision of technology transfer, and 106 NDCs are conditional to the provision of capacity building (see **Figure 10**).[28]

Figure 10: Number of NDCs with elements conditional to the provision of technology transfer and capacity building (out of 157 NDCs)

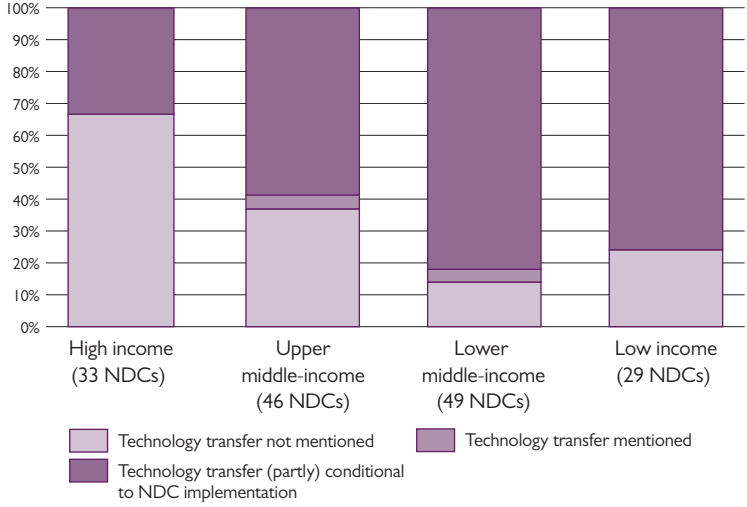


Source: NDC Explorer

Most NDCs of low income, lower middle-income, and upper middle-income countries are (partly) conditional to technology transfer (see **Figure 11**). The majority of NDCs from high income group countries do not mention technology transfer, whilst some do contain elements that are (partly) conditional to the provision of technology transfer. There are very few NDCs from lower and upper middle-income countries that mention technology transfer without making

NDC implementation conditional to its provision. There are also a number of NDCs across the four country groups that do not mention technology transfer.

Figure 11: Number of NDCs with elements conditional to the provision of technology transfer, based on income groups (out of 157 NDCs)

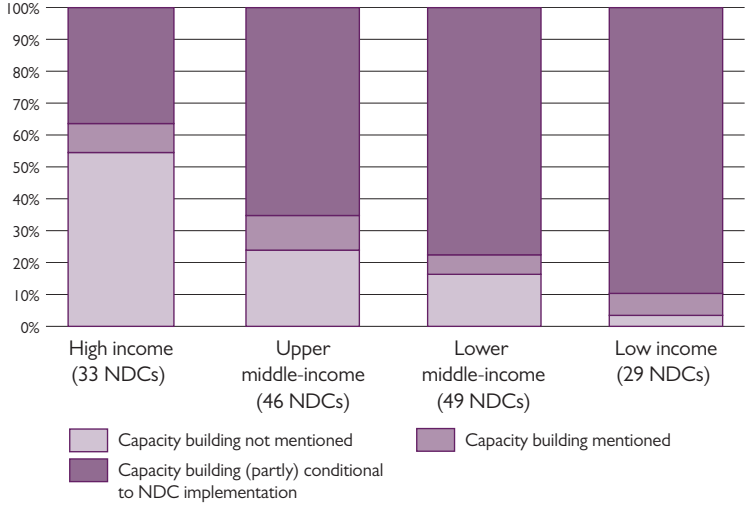


Source: NDC Explorer

The majority of NDCs of lower middle-income and upper middle-income countries contain elements that are (partly) conditional to the provision of capacity building, while almost all NDCs of countries within the low income group are (partly) conditional to the provision of capacity building (see **Figure 12**). A number of NDCs from high income countries are (partly) conditional to capacity building. Very few NDCs from all four income groups mention capacity building without

making implementation conditional to its provision. There are a number of NDCs across the four country groups that do not mention capacity building. The majority of NDCs of countries in the high income group do not mention capacity building.

Figure 12: Number of NDCs with elements conditional to the provision of capacity building, based on income groups (out of 157 NDCs)



Source: NDC Explorer

ARE THE CURRENT NDCS ADEQUATE?

The gap between the (unconditional) emissions reductions pledged in the NDCs so far and the emissions reductions required to meet the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement (known as the "emissions gap") is still very large. According to the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), global annual GHG emissions by 2030 would need to be reduced by 15 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent ($GtCO_2e$) to keep the average global temperature rise to below 2°C, and by 32 $GtCO_2e$ to limit global temperature to 1.5°C.[29]

While this gap can be closed by 2030 by adopting existing and already cost-effective technologies, unprecedented action will be needed, with a substantial increase in the emissions reduction ambition contained in NDCs. A systematic assessment of sectoral mitigation options shows that a large part of the emissions reduction comes from just six relatively standardised categories: solar energy; wind energy; efficient appliances; efficient passenger cars; afforestation; and stopping deforestation. These six categories present a combined potential of up to 22 $GtCO_2e$ per annum.[30]

The (unconditional) action pledged so far in NDCs will reduce global emissions by only 3.4 $GtCO_2e$ by 2030 – this will result in a temperature rise of 3.2°C by the end of this century. To limit temperature rise to 2°C, the current level of ambition will need to be approximately tripled, and global GHG emissions will need to decrease by 2.7% annually from 2020 to 2030. To limit the temperature rise to 1.5°C , the current level of ambition will need to increase five-fold, and global GHG

emissions will need to decrease by 7.6% on average annually from 2020 to 2030.[31]

The recent IPCC report of *Global Warming of 1.5°C* found that the world has a remaining "carbon budget" of only 420 $GtCO_2e$, to limit warming to 1.5°C with a 66% probability of success.[32] Even if the current NDCs are fully implemented, the remaining carbon budget for the 1.5°C target will be depleted by 2030, and 80% depleted for the 2°C goal. If the emissions gap is not closed by then, it will therefore become extremely unlikely that even the "*well below 2°C*" goal can be achieved.

HOW CAN NDCS BE ENHANCED?

Given the large emissions gap, it is crucial that NDCs are updated and enhanced before implementation begins. NDC enhancement refers to the process of developing new or updated NDCs – they are considered enhanced when they contain improvements to their mitigation, adaptation, or transparency/communication components in accordance with the Paris implementation guidelines.[33]

Developing countries are currently taking the lead – almost all of the 112 developing countries (representing 53% of global GHG emissions) have signalled their intent to enhance their NDCs by 2020. LDCs and SIDS are leading in particular, despite their minimal contributions (0.1% for each of the two groups) to global GHG emissions. More than 40 LDCs and SIDS have indicated their intention to submit more ambitious NDCs, while two (Marshall Islands and Suriname) have already done so.

A further 37 countries, representing 16% of global GHG emissions, announced their intention to "*update*" their NDCs with new data, information and/or assumptions (although this may not necessarily result in an enhancement). For 71 countries, representing 21% of global GHG emissions, it is unclear how or whether the NDCs will be revised. 14 countries (representing 26% of global GHG emissions) have no plans to revise NDCs.[34]

The key barriers to enhancing NDCs are the costs of implementation, impacts on the national economy, and technical mitigation potential.[35] A number of programmes and initiatives exist to support countries in enhancing their NDCs (see **Box 2**).

Box 1: The 2019 Climate Action Summit

The UN Secretary-General hosted a Climate Action Summit in September 2019, bringing together governments, business leaders, sub-national actors, and other civil society stakeholders to enhance actions in transformative sectors. At the Summit, a Climate Ambition Alliance of 70 countries pledged to enhance their NDCs by 2020, while 65 countries and sub-national entities committed to cut GHG emissions to net zero by 2050. The Net Zero Asset Owner Alliance of 12 asset owners, representing over US$ 4.6 trillion in assets under management, committed to align portfolios with a 1.5°C scenario and fully transition their investments to net zero by 2050, with strong intermediate targets every five years.

Non-state and sub-national actors can play a critical role in bridging the 2030 emissions gap – it is estimated that they can contribute to reductions of as much as 15-23 $GtCO_2e$ by 2030.[36] However, enhanced monitoring and reporting of actions by non-state actors will be essential to make them transparent and credible.

Box 2: Resources to enhance NDCs

Climate Promise: This programme under the UN Development Programme provides support to at least 100 countries to enhance NDCs. Countries aiming to be climate ambition champions, SIDS, and high emitters are prioritised.

Climate Action Enhancement Package: The NDC Partnership provides targeted, fast-track support to countries to enhance the quality, increase the ambition, and implement their NDCs.

Climate Helpdesk: Short-term technical assistance is provided to developing countries to design, implement, or update their NDCs, low emissions development strategies, and transparency systems. Tools are also provided to assess NDC baselines and policy options.

Countries may choose to update their NDCs for a variety of other reasons other than enhancing ambition – including, for instance:

- **Enhancing clarity:** The INDCs were developed in a short time frame, with limited guidance, and in some cases by external consultants (thus arguably decreasing the "country

ownership" of the final product). Five years later, and after the adoption of the Paris Agreement and implementation guidelines, countries have a much better understanding of what is required from them and what other countries are doing. They know, for instance, what information they need to provide to facilitate clarity, transparency, and understanding, and how they will account for NDCs.

- **Broadening stakeholder engagement and ownership:** Updating NDCs can be an opportunity to engage stakeholders from line ministries, sub-national governments, the private sector, civil society organisations and, when relevant, indigenous or socially disadvantaged groups to ensure that sectoral policies and local realities are reflected. The involvement and buy-in of relevant sectoral ministries is particularly important if they are to play a key role in NDC implementation. This will not only strengthen ownership, but could also unveil additional options.
- **Reflect current realities:** With recent advancements in technologies, policies, institutions, partnerships, and data, the reality on the ground may no longer be reflected in NDCs prepared over five years ago. An update will be important, especially for countries that will overachieve existing targets. An update can also be an opportunity to align NDCs with national plans and strategies, and to provide a stronger signal to the private sector to inform their investment decisions.
- **Adaptation planning:** The adaptation component of NDCs can be enhanced to raise the profile of adaptation and facilitate a better understanding of adaptation actions and needs.

HOW DOES THE PARIS AGREEMENT ENCOURAGE AMBITION IN NDCS?

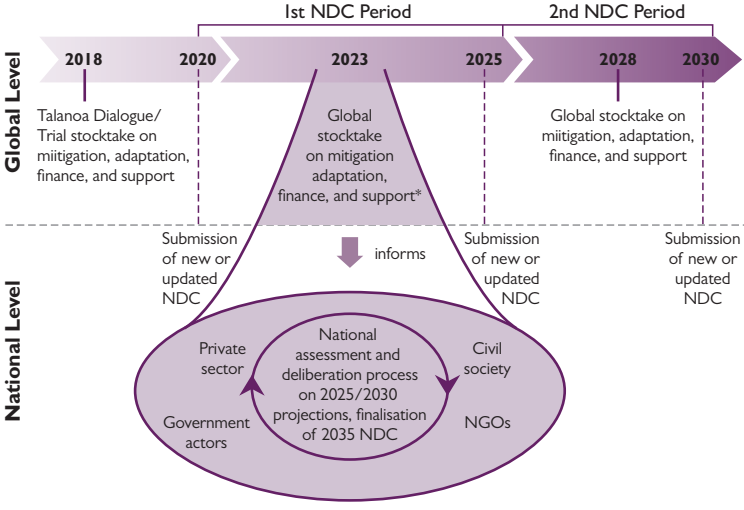
As mentioned earlier, the Paris Agreement establishes a cycle for countries to plan and communicate NDCs, implement them, submit BTRs, and then participate in a "global stocktake" for an aggregate review of progress to inform future NDCs. Subsequent NDCs must represent progression compared to previous NDCs. This cycle is commonly referred to as the Agreement's "ambition mechanism" (see **Figure 13**).

In addition, a compliance mechanism provides further accountability, particularly with regard to the submission of NDCs and BTRs. The global stocktake is a key element in the ambition mechanism of the Agreement. It is expected to provide countries with a basis to raise their ambition in the NDCs that they submit two years after each successive global stocktake.

There are concerns, however, that this ambition mechanism may not be sufficient to drive global ambition to necessary levels. To begin with, it is not yet clear that all countries will have five-year cycles in the post-2020 period. If the five- and ten-year cycles of the first NDC cycle continue beyond 2020, countries with longer cycles will not feel the same pressure to enhance ambition in their NDCs every five years (although they will have the option to do so) as the countries with five-year cycles (who will have to submit a new NDC, which will have to be more ambitious than the previous one). In other words, not all countries will feel the same pressure to update their NDCs every five years following a stocktake.[37]

Negotiations for a common time frame for all NDCs continue to prove difficult.

Figure 13: The ambition mechanism of the Paris Agreement



Source: Karlsson-Vinkhuyzen, S. & Kessler, J. (2018). *Making the ambition of the Paris Agreement work*. One World Trust.

Secondly, some Parties to the Paris Agreement fear that if countries submit their NDCs for the first time only 9-12 months before a CMA, other countries will not have time to weigh their own levels of ambition with that of their peers, or give them the time and opportunity to potentially re-calibrate their NDCs for greater ambition (either in response to higher ambition from their peers, or aggregations by research institutions or civil society that show that aggregate ambition levels are still lower than necessary). Without the opportunity to compare levels of ambition among each other, and given

the concerns that countries tend to have with regard to complementarity and comparability of efforts at least among peers, countries may simply choose to opt for lower levels of ambition in the NDCs in the first place (so as to not commit to more ambitious action than their peers). It is expected, for instance, that China will wait until after the 2020 US elections (the outcome of which could reverse the US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement) before submitting its next NDC.

Third, the information received from the transparency framework to inform the global stocktake will be affected by national capacities and the flexibility provided in the framework. It may therefore not be exhaustive enough for an accurate global stocktake.

Finally, but most important, fairness and equity are meant to be key elements to drive ambition in the Paris Agreement. However, the information provided in the NDCs so far does not provide sufficient justification of how the NDCs are fair and ambitious – more detailed and rigorous information is needed. Understanding the NDCs in light of equity and fairness will also be important in the global stocktake, although the stocktake will assess collective global efforts rather than the fairness of individual NDCs.[38]

Naming and shaming by civil society could also make governments increase NDC ambition to match their responsibility, but it remains to be seen if it will.

In theory, therefore, the Paris Agreement has an ambition mechanism, but it still needs to be completed and fine-tuned, and it will rely on good faith and pressure from peers and civil society to work.

WILL THE GLOBAL STOCKTAKE ENCOURAGE GREATER AMBITION?

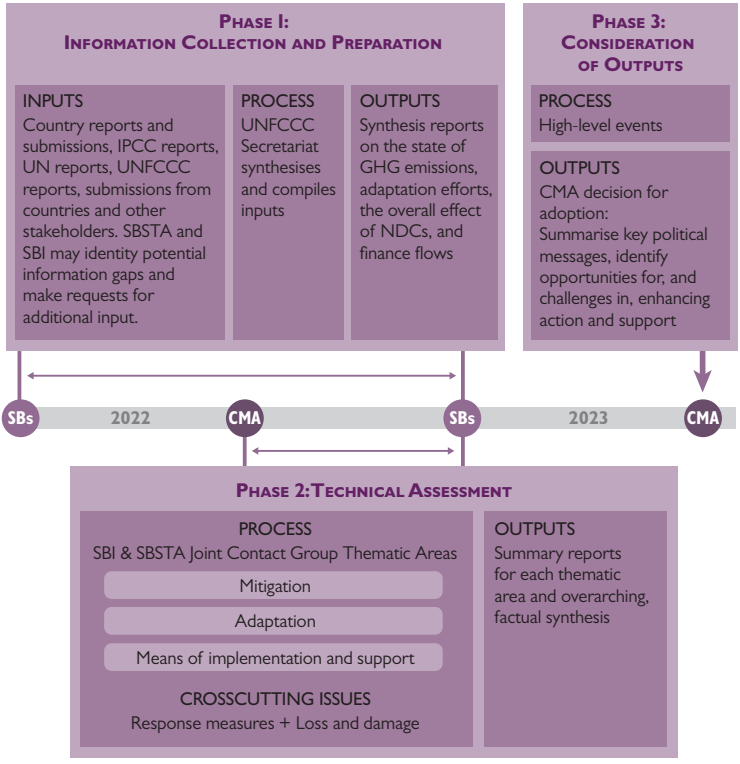
The Paris Agreement calls for a global stocktake every five years from 2023 onwards, to assess collective progress towards achieving its purpose and long-term goals (Article 14). The stocktake will consider mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation and support, in the light of equity and best available science.

The implementation guidelines for the global stocktake, agreed in Katowice in 2018, added a further element for consideration in the stocktake: the stocktake may also consider efforts to address social and economic consequences and impacts of response measures, and loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.[39] In addition, the Katowice decision characterised equity as "*cross-cutting*" and decided to consider it "*throughout the GST*". The guidelines specify that each stocktake will have three stages:

- Information collection
- Technical assessment
- Consideration of outputs

Figure 14 illustrates the process of the global stocktake and the roles of various actors.

Figure 14: Timeline and processes of the first global stocktake



Source: WRI (2020). *Navigating the Paris Agreement Rulebook: Global Stocktake*.

The Paris Agreement and guidelines do not, however, specify how the outcomes of the global stocktake will contribute to increase ambition, beyond informing countries of the impact of their collective efforts. Countries are under no obligation to revise their climate pledges to fill gaps identified by the stocktake.[40] A trial run for the stocktake, conducted in

2018 as a Facilitative Dialogue (later renamed the Talanoa Dialogue), resulted in no specific pathway for countries to increase ambition in their NDCs. A COP Decision merely "*takes note of the outcome, inputs and outputs of the Talanoa Dialogue*" and invites countries to consider them while preparing their NDCs.[41]

The mitigation element of the stocktake runs the risk of being overwhelmed by too much information, given the variety of the NDCs (and therefore of the reporting – which will make it challenging to aggregate information), the varied capacity of countries to provide information, and the inputs listed in the implementation guidelines. A fine balance will have to be struck between comprehensiveness, effectiveness, and efficiency. While the ICTU and accounting rules will help to a certain degree with the aggregation issues, they will not resolve them.

Assessing collective progress on adaptation can be an even bigger challenge, given its locally-determined, context-specific nature; and the variety of inputs (Decision 11/CMA.1, §9). A basic, common framework to aggregate national progress may be necessary for an effective stocktake. Such a framework could categorise national adaptation action in ways that connect to elements of the global goal, and countries with similar national goals (related to adaptation planning processes, for example, or outcomes in specific sectors) could be grouped to understand progress and gaps nationally and globally.

Assessing global progress on means of implementation and support will be equally, if not more, difficult. There is no agreement on the metrics for assessing progress – for instance, on what contributions should count as climate finance, or how private finance will be counted. There is also no clarity on how

efforts related to technology development and transfer and capacity building will be assessed, and against what.

The assessment of progress in light of equity and fairness will be challenging not only because of the collective nature of the stocktake, but also by the use of different equity and fairness indicators, principles, and benchmarks by countries in their NDCs. These include historical responsibility for temperature rise, cumulative per capita emissions, capacity to act due to development levels, and sustainable development levels. Many developed countries reject the use and application of such indicators, arguing that it is unclear how they can be applied without breaching the Paris Agreement's provision that the stocktake will assess collective, rather than individual, progress.

WHAT HAPPENS IF COUNTRIES DON'T FULFIL THEIR NDC PLEDGES?

While the Paris Agreement establishes a compliance mechanism under Article 15, it only applies to procedural obligations such as the submission of NDCs and BTRs – not to the actual fulfilment of NDC pledges. Moreover, the mechanism is facilitative, non-adversarial, and non-punitive in nature. In other words, it can facilitate countries to meet their procedural obligations, but it cannot reprimand or punish them for not meeting these obligations.

The Paris Agreement compliance mechanism does not have an "enforcement branch" like the compliance mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol, to determine consequences for countries that do not meet their pledges. The implementation guidelines for Article 15 makes it clear that the Compliance Committee of the Paris Agreement "*shall neither function as an enforcement or dispute settlement mechanism, nor impose penalties or sanctions, and shall respect national sovereignty*".

A Compliance Committee with 12 members has already been established, and its purpose, principles, nature, functions, and scope were agreed in Katowice. The Committee can only initiate the "*consideration of issues*" when:

- Requested by the Party itself.
- When a Party has not communicated or maintained an NDC, BTR, or (in the case of developed countries only) submitted biennial information on *ex ante* and *ex post* finance.
- When a Party has not participated in a facilitative, multilateral consideration of progress (one of the

requirements under the enhanced transparency framework defined under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement).

In addition, the Compliance Committee can be engaged with the consent of the Party concerned, in cases of significant and persistent inconsistencies of the information submitted by the Party in their transparency reports.

Once it is engaged, the Committee can resort to the following measures, while taking into account comments and further information provided by the Party, the legal nature of the relevant provisions, and the national capabilities and circumstances of the Party concerned:

- Hold a dialogue with the Party to identify challenges, make recommendations, and share information.
- Assist the country in engaging appropriate finance, technology, and capacity building support systems to identify challenges and recommend solutions.
- Recommend development of an action plan and assist in the development of the plan, if requested.
- Issue findings of fact, regarding the Party's referral.

If the Committee identifies systemic issues faced by a number of Parties that affect the implementation of, and compliance with, the Paris Agreement, it can bring it to the attention of the CMA and make recommendations, where appropriate.

HOW DO NDCS RELATE TO OTHER INSTRUMENTS WITH SIMILAR GOALS?

There are other processes, such as the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), long-term low GHG emission development strategies (LEDS), NAPs, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that might have similar goals to the NDCs.

NATIONALLY APPROPRIATE MITIGATION ACTIONS

The 2012 Bali Action Plan called on developing countries to prepare NAMAs, with actions to reduce emissions – including, for instance, policies and actions within sectors. The implementation of NAMAs was to be supported and enabled by means of implementation provided by developed countries "*in a measurable and verifiable manner*". The experience of designing NAMAs can be useful in developing NDCs. Integrating the NAMAs into the overarching strategy of the NDCs can ensure coherence.

LONG-TERM, LOW GHG EMISSION DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

In addition to NDCs, Parties are invited to communicate LEDS, going up to 2050, by 2020 (Article 4.19, and §35 of Decision 1/CP.21). While it is not compulsory for countries to do so, this process can help in deciding the evolution of NDCs over time, by providing a longer-term roadmap. Long-term planning can also help to align short-term action with long-

term plans, and avoid lock-in into technology, infrastructure, and land-use practices that are not climate compatible.

NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLANS AND ADAPTATION COMMUNICATIONS

The NAPs were established under the Cancun Adaptation Framework, while the adaptation communications are called for in Article 7.10 of the Paris Agreement. NAPs are a means of identifying national adaptation needs and building adaptive capacity and resilience into development plans. Adaptation communications, meanwhile, may include adaptation priorities, implementation and support needs, and plans and actions. Adaptation communications can form part of the NAPs, NDCs, or National Communications. Aligning and linking these processes could result in enhanced and coherent adaptation planning and action.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement are strongly interlinked, and there is vast potential for synergies in planning for and implementing the 17 SDGs and the NDCs. Both processes are bottom-up, and based on nationally-determined priorities. Coherence and synergies between the two are once again called for.

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ANNEX: KEY DECISIONS RELATED TO NDCS

WARSAW, 2013

Decision 1/CP.19: Further advancing the Durban Platform

LIMA, 2014

Decision 1/CP.20: Lima Call for Climate Action

PARIS, 2015

Decision 1/CP.21: Adoption of the Paris Agreement

[…]

II. Intended nationally determined contributions

12. *Welcomes* the intended nationally determined contributions that have been communicated by Parties in accordance with decision 1/CP.19, paragraph 2(b);
13. *Reiterates* its invitation to all Parties that have not yet done so to communicate to the secretariat their intended nationally determined contributions towards achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2 as soon as possible and well in advance of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties (November 2016) and in a manner that facilitates the clarity, transparency and understanding of the intended nationally determined contributions;
14. *Requests* the secretariat to continue to publish the intended nationally determined contributions communicated by Parties on the UNFCCC website;
15. *Reiterates* its call to developed country Parties, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and any other organizations in a position to do so to provide support for the preparation and communication of the intended nationally determined contributions of Parties that may need such support;
16. *Takes note* of the synthesis report on the aggregate effect of intended nationally determined contributions communicated by Parties by 1 October 2015, contained in document FCCC/CP/2015/7;
17. *Notes* with concern that the estimated aggregate greenhouse gas emission levels in 2025 and 2030 resulting from the intended nationally determined contributions do not fall within least-cost 2 °C scenarios but rather lead to

a projected level of 55 gigatonnes in 2030, and also notes that much greater emission reduction efforts will be required than those associated with the intended nationally determined contributions in order to hold the increase in the global average temperature to below 2˚C above pre-industrial levels by reducing emissions to 40 gigatonnes or to 1.5˚C above pre-industrial levels by reducing to a level to be identified in the special report referred to in paragraph 21 below;

18. *Further notes*, in this context, the adaptation needs expressed by many developing country Parties in their intended nationally determined contributions;
19. *Requests* the secretariat to update the synthesis report referred to in paragraph 16 above so as to cover all the information in the intended nationally determined contributions communicated by Parties pursuant to decision 1/CP.20 by 4 April 2016 and to make it available by 2 May 2016;
20. *Decides* to convene a facilitative dialogue among Parties in 2018 to take stock of the collective efforts of Parties in relation to progress towards the long-term goal referred to in Article 4, paragraph 1, of the Agreement and to inform the preparation of nationally determined contributions pursuant to Article 4, paragraph 8, of the Agreement;

III. Decisions to give effect to the Agreement

Mitigation

22. *Also invites* Parties to communicate their first nationally determined contribution no later than when the Party submits its respective instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession of the Paris Agreement; if a Party has communicated an intended FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1 5 nationally determined contribution prior to joining the Agreement, that Party shall be considered to have satisfied this provision unless that Party decides otherwise;
23. *Requests* those Parties whose intended nationally determined contribution pursuant to decision 1/CP.20 contains a time frame up to 2025 to communicate by 2020 a new nationally determined contribution and to do so every five years thereafter pursuant to Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Agreement;
24. *Also requests* those Parties whose intended nationally determined contribution pursuant to decision 1/CP.20 contains a time frame up to 2030 to communicate or update by 2020 these contributions and to do so every five years thereafter pursuant to Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Agreement
25. *Decides* that Parties shall submit to the secretariat their nationally determined contributions referred to in Article 4 of the Agreement at least 9 to 12 months in advance of the relevant session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement with a view to facilitating the clarity, transparency and understanding of these contributions, including through a synthesis report prepared by the secretariat;

26. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement to develop further guidance on features of the nationally determined contributions for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its first session;
27. *Agrees* that the information to be provided by Parties communicating their nationally determined contributions, in order to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding, may include, as appropriate, inter alia, quantifiable information on the reference point (including, as appropriate, a base year), time frames and/or periods for implementation, scope and coverage, planning processes, assumptions and methodological approaches including those for estimating and accounting for anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and, as appropriate, removals, and how the Party considers that its nationally determined contribution is fair and ambitious, in the light of its national circumstances, and how it contributes towards achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2;
28. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement to develop further guidance for the information to be provided by Parties in order to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding of nationally determined contributions for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its first session;
30. *Further requests* the secretariat to make available an interim public registry in the first half of 2016 for the recording of nationally determined contributions submitted in accordance with Article 4 of the Agreement, pending the adoption by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement of the modalities and procedures referred to in paragraph 29 above;
31. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement to elaborate, drawing from approaches established under the Convention and its related legal instruments as appropriate, guidance for accounting for Parties' nationally determined contributions, as referred to in Article 4, paragraph 13, of the Agreement, for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its first session, which ensures that:
    (…)
    (b) Parties ensure methodological consistency, including on baselines, between the communication and implementation of nationally determined contributions;
    (c) Parties strive to include all categories of anthropogenic emissions or removals in their nationally determined contributions and, once a source, sink or activity is included, continue to include it;
    (…)
32. *Decides* that Parties shall apply the guidance referred to in paragraph 31 above to the second and subsequent nationally determined contributions and that Parties may elect to apply such guidance to their first nationally determined contribution;

36. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to develop and recommend the guidance referred to under Article 6, paragraph 2, of the Agreement for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its first session, including guidance to ensure that double counting is avoided on the basis of a corresponding adjustment by Parties for both anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks covered by their nationally determined contributions under the Agreement;

Transparency of action and support

94. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement, in developing the modalities, procedures and guidelines referred to in paragraph 91 above, to consider, inter alia:
    (…)
    (b) The consistency between the methodology communicated in the nationally determined contribution and the methodology for reporting on progress made towards achieving individual Parties' respective nationally determined contribution;
    (…)

Global Stocktake

99. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement to identify the sources of input for the global stocktake referred to in Article 14 of the Agreement and to report to the Conference of the Parties, with a view to the Conference of the Parties making a recommendation to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement for consideration and adoption at its first session, including, but not limited to:
    (a) Information on:
        (i) The overall effect of the nationally determined contributions communicated by Parties;
    (…)

PARIS AGREEMENT

Article 3

As nationally determined contributions to the global response to climate change, all Parties are to undertake and communicate ambitious efforts as defined in Articles 4, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 13 with the view to achieving the purpose of this Agreement as set out in Article 2. The efforts of all Parties will represent a progression over time, while recognizing the need to support developing country Parties for the effective implementation of this Agreement.

Article 4

(…)

2. Each Party shall prepare, communicate and maintain successive nationally determined contributions that it intends to achieve. Parties shall pursue

domestic mitigation measures, with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions.

3. Each Party's successive nationally determined contribution will represent a progression beyond the Party's then current nationally determined contribution and reflect its highest possible ambition, reflecting its common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances,

(…)

8. In communicating their nationally determined contributions, all Parties shall provide the information necessary for clarity, transparency and understanding in accordance with decision 1/CP.21 and any relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement.
9. Each Party shall communicate a nationally determined contribution every five years in accordance with decision 1/CP.21 and any relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement and be informed by the outcomes of the global stocktake referred to in Article 14.
10. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement shall consider common time frames for nationally determined contributions at its first session.
11. A Party may at any time adjust its existing nationally determined contribution with a view to enhancing its level of ambition, in accordance with guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement.
12. Nationally determined contributions communicated by Parties shall be recorded in a public registry maintained by the secretariat.
13. Parties shall account for their nationally determined contributions. In accounting for anthropogenic emissions and removals corresponding to their nationally determined contributions, Parties shall promote environmental integrity, transparency, accuracy, completeness, comparability and consistency, and ensure the avoidance of double counting, in accordance with guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement.
14. In the context of their nationally determined contributions, when recognizing and implementing mitigation actions with respect to anthropogenic emissions and removals, Parties should take into account, as appropriate, existing methods and guidance under the Convention, in the light of the provisions of paragraph 13 of this Article.

(…)

16. Parties, including regional economic integration organizations and their member States, that have reached an agreement to act jointly under paragraph 2 of this Article shall notify the secretariat of the terms of that agreement, including the emission level allocated to each Party within the relevant time period, when they communicate their nationally determined

contributions. The secretariat shall in turn inform the Parties and signatories to the Convention of the terms of that agreement.

Article 6

1. Parties recognize that some Parties choose to pursue voluntary cooperation in the implementation of their nationally determined contributions to allow for higher ambition in their mitigation and adaptation actions and to promote sustainable development and environmental integrity.
2. Parties shall, where engaging on a voluntary basis in cooperative approaches that involve the use of internationally transferred mitigation outcomes towards nationally determined contributions, promote sustainable development and ensure environmental integrity and transparency, including in governance, and shall apply robust accounting to ensure, inter alia, the avoidance of double counting, consistent with guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement.
3. The use of internationally transferred mitigation outcomes to achieve nationally determined contributions under this Agreement shall be voluntary and authorized by participating Parties.
4. A mechanism to contribute to the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and support sustainable development is hereby established under the authority and guidance of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement for use by Parties on a voluntary basis. It shall be supervised by a body designated by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement, and shall aim:
   (…)
   (c) To contribute to the reduction of emission levels in the host Party, which will benefit from mitigation activities resulting in emission reductions that can also be used by another Party to fulfil its nationally determined contribution; and
   (…)
5. Emission reductions resulting from the mechanism referred to in paragraph 4 of this Article shall not be used to demonstrate achievement of the host Party's nationally determined contribution if used by another Party to demonstrate achievement of its nationally determined contribution.
8. Parties recognize the importance of integrated, holistic and balanced non-market approaches being available to Parties to assist in the implementation of their nationally determined contributions, in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, in a coordinated and effective manner, including through, inter alia, mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology transfer and capacity-building, as appropriate. These approaches shall aim to:
   (a) Promote mitigation and adaptation ambition;
   (b) Enhance public and private sector participation in the implementation of nationally determined contributions; and
   (…)

9. Each Party shall, as appropriate, engage in adaptation planning processes and the implementation of actions, including the development or enhancement of relevant plans, policies and/or contributions, which may include:
   (…)
   (c) The assessment of climate change impacts and vulnerability, with a view to formulating nationally determined prioritized actions, taking into account vulnerable people, places and ecosystems;
11. The adaptation communication referred to in paragraph 10 of this Article shall be, as appropriate, submitted and updated periodically, as a component of or in conjunction with other communications or documents, including a national adaptation plan, a nationally determined contribution as referred to in Article 4, paragraph 2, and/or a national communication.

Article 13

5. The purpose of the framework for transparency of action is to provide a clear understanding of climate change action in the light of the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2, including clarity and tracking of progress towards achieving Parties' individual nationally determined contributions under Article 4, and Parties' adaptation actions under Article 7, including good practices, priorities, needs and gaps, to inform the global stocktake under Article 14.
7. Each Party shall regularly provide the following information:
   (…)
   (b) Information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving its nationally determined contribution under Article 4.
11. Information submitted by each Party under paragraphs 7 and 9 of this Article shall undergo a technical expert review, in accordance with decision 1/CP.21. For those developing country Parties that need it in the light of their capacities, the review process shall include assistance in identifying capacity-building needs. In addition, each Party shall participate in a facilitative, multilateral consideration of progress with respect to efforts under Article 9, and its respective implementation and achievement of its nationally determined contribution.
12. The technical expert review under this paragraph shall consist of a consideration of the Party's support provided, as relevant, and its implementation and achievement of its nationally determined contribution. The review shall also identify areas of improvement for the Party, and include a review of the consistency of the information with the modalities, procedures and guidelines referred to in paragraph 13 of this Article, taking into account the flexibility accorded to the Party under paragraph 2 of this Article. The review shall pay particular attention to the respective national capabilities and circumstances of developing country Parties.

Article 14

3. The outcome of the global stocktake shall inform Parties in updating and enhancing, in a nationally determined manner, their actions and support in accordance with the relevant provisions of this Agreement, as well as in enhancing international cooperation for climate action.

MARRAKECH, 2016

Decision 1/CP.22: Preparations for the entry into force of the Paris Agreement and the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement

II. Completion of the work programme under the Paris Agreement

8. Further takes note of the consideration by the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement of further guidance in relation to the adaptation communication, including, inter alia, as a component of nationally determined contributions, referred to in Article 7, paragraphs 10 and 11, of the Paris Agreement;

Decision 7/CP.22: Long-term climate finance

7. Notes the increase in adaptation finance to date as identified in the 2016 biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows, and the need to continue efforts to significantly scale up adaptation finance, while stressing the need to strive for a greater balance between adaptation and mitigation finance, and invites Parties and relevant institutions to consider the key messages from the in-session workshop referred to in paragraph 6 above, including that:
   (…)
   (b) The nationally determined contributions and adaptation communications could constitute a good opportunity for supporting the scaling up of adaptation finance;
   (…)

Decision 10/CP.22: Report of the Green Climate Fund to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Green Climate Fund

Decision 11/CP.22: Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environment Facility

13. Encourages the Global Environment Facility to continue its efforts to encourage countries to align, as appropriate, their Global Environment

Facility programming with priorities as identified in their nationally determined contributions, where they exist, during the seventh replenishment, and to continue to promote synergies across its focal areas;

KATOWICE, 2018

Decision 1/CP.24: Preparations for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement

(…)

3. Reaffirms that, in the context of nationally determined contributions to the global response to climate change, all Parties are to undertake and communicate ambitious efforts as defined in Articles 4, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 13 of the Paris Agreement with a view to achieving the purpose of this Agreement as set out in its Article 2;

(…)

22. Also reiterates its request7 to those Parties whose intended nationally determined contribution pursuant to decision 1/CP.20 contains a time frame up to 2025 to communicate by 2020 a new nationally determined contribution and to do so every five years thereafter pursuant to Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Paris Agreement;

23. Further reiterates its request8 to those Parties whose intended nationally determined contribution pursuant to decision 1/CP.20 contains a time frame up to 2030 to communicate or update by 2020 the contribution and to do so every five years thereafter pursuant to Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Paris Agreement;

(…)

V. Talanoa Dialogue

30. Recalls its decision10 to convene a facilitative dialogue among Parties in 2018 to take stock of the collective efforts of Parties in relation to progress towards the long-term goal referred to in Article 4, paragraph 1, of the Paris Agreement and to inform the preparation of nationally determined contributions pursuant to Article 4, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement;

(…)

34. Also acknowledges that the Talanoa Dialogue took stock of the collective efforts of Parties in relation to progress towards the long-term goal referred to in Article 4, paragraph 1, of the Paris Agreement and provided information for the preparation of nationally determined contributions pursuant to Article 4, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement;

(…)

37. Invites Parties to consider the outcome, inputs and outputs of the Talanoa Dialogue in preparing their nationally determined contributions and in their efforts to enhance pre-2020 implementation and ambition;

Decision 4/CP.24: Report of the Standing Committee on Finance

(…)

Annex

(…)

3. The COP welcomed the summary and recommendations by the SCF on the 2016 BA, which, inter alia, encourages Parties and relevant international institutions to enhance the availability of information that will be necessary for tracking global progress on the goals outlined in Article 2 of the Paris Agreement. The COP requested the SCF, in preparing future BAs, to assess available information on investment needs and plans related to Parties' nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and national adaptation plans.

Decision 3/CMA.1: Matters relating to the implementation of the Paris Agreement

Decision 4/CMA.1: Further guidance in relation to the mitigation section of decision 1/CP.21

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement,

Recalling relevant Articles of the Paris Agreement, including Articles 3 and 4,

Also recalling decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 26, 28 and 31,

Further recalling that, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 5, support shall be provided to developing country Parties for the implementation of Article 4, in accordance with Articles 9, 10 and 11, of the Paris Agreement, recognizing that enhanced support for developing country Parties will allow for higher ambition in their actions,

Recognizing that Parties have different starting points, capacities and national circumstances and *highlighting* the importance of capacity-building support for developing country Parties for the preparation and communication of their nationally determined contributions,

1. *Reaffirms* and *underscores* that, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 5, of the Paris Agreement, support shall be provided to developing country Parties for the implementation of Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, including to continue to enhance the capacity of developing country Parties in preparing, communicating and accounting for their nationally determined contributions;
2. *Encourages* the relevant operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and constituted bodies under the Convention serving the Paris Agreement to

continue to provide, within their mandates, support for capacity-building as referred to in paragraph 1 above;

3. *Invites* other organizations in a position to do so to provide support for capacity- building as referred to in paragraph 1 above;
4. *Recalls* that the least developed countries and small island developing States may prepare and communicate strategies, plans and actions for low greenhouse gas emission development reflecting their special circumstances in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 6, of the Paris Agreement;
5. *Also recalls* Article 4, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement, which provides that developed country Parties should continue taking the lead by undertaking economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets, and that developing country Parties should continue enhancing their mitigation efforts and are encouraged to move over time towards economy- wide emission reduction or limitation targets in the light of different national circumstances;

   Further guidance for information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding of nationally determined contributions, referred to in decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 28
6. *Further recalls* Article 4, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement, which provides that, in communicating their nationally determined contributions, all Parties shall provide the information necessary for clarity, transparency and understanding in accordance with decision 1/CP.21 and any relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement;
7. *Decides* that, in communicating their second and subsequent nationally determined contributions, Parties shall provide the information necessary for clarity, transparency and understanding contained in annex I as applicable to their nationally determined contributions, and *strongly encourages* Parties to provide this information in relation to their first nationally determined contribution, including when communicating or updating it by 2020;
8. *Emphasizes* that the guidance on information necessary for clarity, transparency and understanding is without prejudice to the inclusion of components other than mitigation in a nationally determined contribution, *notes* that Parties may provide other information when submitting their nationally determined contributions, and in particular that, as provided in Article 7, paragraph 11, of the Paris Agreement, an adaptation communication referred to in Article 7, paragraph 10, of the Paris Agreement may be submitted as a component of or in conjunction with a nationally determined contribution as referred to in Article 4, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement, and *also notes* the further guidance in relation to the adaptation communication contained in decision 9/CMA.1;
9. *Recalls* decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 27, applicable to Parties' first nationally determined contributions, including those communicated or updated by 2020, pursuant to paragraph 24 of the same decision, in which the Conference of the Parties agreed that the information to be provided by

Parties communicating their nationally determined contributions, in order to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding, may include, as appropriate, inter alia, quantifiable information on the reference point (including, as appropriate, a base year), time frames and/or periods for implementation, scope and coverage, planning processes, assumptions and methodological approaches, including those for estimating and accounting for anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and, as appropriate, removals, and how the Party considers that its nationally determined contribution is fair and ambitious, in the light of its national circumstances, and how it contributes towards achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2;

10. *Recognizes* that each Party with a nationally determined contribution under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement that consists of mitigation co-benefits resulting from its adaptation action and/or economic diversification plans consistent with Article 4, paragraph 7, of the Paris Agreement shall provide the information referred to in annex I as applicable to its nationally determined contribution and as it relates to such mitigation co-benefits;

Guidance for accounting for Parties' nationally determined contributions, referred to in decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 31

11. *Recalls* Article 4, paragraph 13, of the Paris Agreement, which provides that Parties shall account for their nationally determined contributions, and that, in accounting for anthropogenic emissions and removals corresponding to their nationally determined contributions, Parties shall promote environmental integrity, transparency, accuracy, completeness, comparability and consistency, and ensure the avoidance of double counting, in accordance with guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement;
12. *Also recalls* decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 31, in which the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement was requested to elaborate, drawing on approaches established under the Convention and its related legal instruments, as appropriate, guidance for accounting for Parties' nationally determined contributions, as referred to in Article 4, paragraph 13, of the Paris Agreement, for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its first session, which ensures that:
    (a) Parties account for anthropogenic emissions and removals in accordance with methodologies and common metrics assessed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement;
    (b) Parties ensure methodological consistency, including on baselines, between the communication and implementation of nationally determined contributions;
    (c) Parties strive to include all categories of anthropogenic emissions or removals in their nationally determined contributions and, once a source, sink or activity is included, continue to include it;

(d) Parties shall provide an explanation of why any categories of anthropogenic emissions or removals are excluded;

13. *Decides* that, in accounting for anthropogenic emissions and removals corresponding to their nationally determined contributions under Article 4, paragraph 13, of the Paris Agreement, Parties shall account for their nationally determined contributions in accordance with the guidance contained in annex II;
14. *Recalls* decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 32, which provides that Parties shall apply the guidance for accounting for nationally determined contributions to their second and subsequent nationally determined contributions, and that Parties may elect to apply such guidance to their first nationally determined contribution;
15. *Decides* that, in accounting for anthropogenic emissions and removals corresponding to their nationally determined contributions, Parties shall ensure the avoidance of double counting;
16. *Recognizes* that each Party with a nationally determined contribution under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement that consists of mitigation co-benefits resulting from its adaptation action and/or economic diversification plans consistent with Article 4, paragraph 7, of the Paris Agreement shall follow the guidance contained in annex II as it relates to such mitigation co-benefits;
17. *Decides* that Parties shall account for their nationally determined contributions in their biennial transparency reports, including through a structured summary, consistently with the guidance provided pursuant to Article 13, paragraph 7(b), of the Paris Agreement and any relevant guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement;
18. *Also decides* to initiate the review of and, if necessary, update the information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding of nationally determined contributions and the guidance for accounting for Parties' nationally determined contributions at its tenth session (2027) with a view to considering and adopting a decision on the matter at its eleventh session (2028);

Further guidance on features of nationally determined contributions, referred to in decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 26

19. *Notes* that features of nationally determined contributions are outlined in the relevant provisions of the Paris Agreement;
20. *Decides* to continue consideration of further guidance on features of nationally determined contributions at its seventh session (2024).

Annex I

Information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding of nationally determined contributions, referred to in decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 28

1. **Quantifiable information on the reference point (including, as appropriate, a base year):**
   (a) Reference year(s), base year(s), reference period(s) or other starting point(s);
   (b) Quantifiable information on the reference indicators, their values in the reference year(s), base year(s), reference period(s) or other starting point(s), and, as applicable, in the target year;
   (c) For strategies, plans and actions referred to in Article 4, paragraph 6, of the Paris Agreement, or polices and measures as components of nationally determined contributions where paragraph 1(b) above is not applicable, Parties to provide other relevant information;
   (d) Target relative to the reference indicator, expressed numerically, for example in percentage or amount of reduction;
   (e) Information on sources of data used in quantifying the reference point(s);
   (f) Information on the circumstances under which the Party may update the values of the reference indicators.
2. **Time frames and/or periods for implementation:**
   (a) Time frame and/or period for implementation, including start and end date, consistent with any further relevant decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA);
   (b) Whether it is a single-year or multi-year target, as applicable.
3. **Scope and coverage:**
   (a) General description of the target;
   (b) Sectors, gases, categories and pools covered by the nationally determined contribution, including, as applicable, consistent with Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidelines;
   (c) How the Party has taken into consideration paragraph 31(c) and (d) of decision 1/CP .21;
   (d) Mitigation co-benefits resulting from Parties' adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans, including description of specific projects, measures and initiatives of Parties' adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans.
4. **Planning processes:**
   (a) Information on the planning processes that the Party undertook to prepare its nationally determined contribution and, if available, on the Party's implementation plans, including, as appropriate:
      (i) Domestic institutional arrangements, public participation and engagement with local communities and indigenous peoples, in a gender-responsive manner;
      (ii) Contextual matters, including, inter alia, as appropriate:

a. National circumstances, such as geography, climate, economy, sustainable development and poverty eradication;
b. Best practices and experience related to the preparation of the nationally determined contribution;
c. Other contextual aspirations and priorities acknowledged when joining the Paris Agreement;

(b) Specific information applicable to Parties, including regional economic integration organizations and their member States, that have reached an agreement to act jointly under Article 4, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement, including the Parties that agreed to act jointly and the terms of the agreement, in accordance with Article 4, paragraphs 16–18, of the Paris Agreement;

(c) How the Party's preparation of its nationally determined contribution has been informed by the outcomes of the global stocktake, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Paris Agreement;

(d) Each Party with a nationally determined contribution under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement that consists of adaptation action and/or economic diversification plans resulting in mitigation co-benefits consistent with Article 4, paragraph 7, of the Paris Agreement to submit information on:

(i) How the economic and social consequences of response measures have been considered in developing the nationally determined contribution;

(ii) Specific projects, measures and activities to be implemented to contribute to mitigation co-benefits, including information on adaptation plans that also yield mitigation co-benefits, which may cover, but are not limited to, key sectors, such as energy, resources, water resources, coastal resources, human settlements and urban planning, agriculture and forestry; and economic diversification actions, which may cover, but are not limited to, sectors such as manufacturing and industry, energy and mining, transport and communication, construction, tourism, real estate, agriculture and fisheries.

5. Assumptions and methodological approaches, including those for estimating and accounting for anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and, as appropriate, removals:

(a) Assumptions and methodological approaches used for accounting for anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and removals corresponding to the Party's nationally determined contribution, consistent with decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 31, and accounting guidance adopted by the CMA;

(b) Assumptions and methodological approaches used for accounting for the implementation of policies and measures or strategies in the nationally determined contribution;

(c) If applicable, information on how the Party will take into account existing methods and guidance under the Convention to account for anthropogenic emissions and removals, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 14, of the Paris Agreement, as appropriate;
(d) IPCC methodologies and metrics used for estimating anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and removals;
(e) Sector-, category- or activity-specific assumptions, methodologies and approaches consistent with IPCC guidance, as appropriate, including, as applicable:
  (i) Approach to addressing emissions and subsequent removals from natural disturbances on managed lands;
  (ii) Approach used to account for emissions and removals from harvested wood products;
  (iii) Approach used to address the effects of age-class structure in forests;
(f) Other assumptions and methodological approaches used for understanding the nationally determined contribution and, if applicable, estimating corresponding emissions and removals, including:
  (i) How the reference indicators, baseline(s) and/or reference level(s), including, where applicable, sector-, category- or activity-specific reference levels, are constructed, including, for example, key parameters, assumptions, definitions, methodologies, data sources and models used;
  (ii) For Parties with nationally determined contributions that contain non- greenhouse-gas components, information on assumptions and methodological approaches used in relation to those components, as applicable;
  (iii) For climate forcers included in nationally determined contributions not covered by IPCC guidelines, information on how the climate forcers are estimated;
  (iv) Further technical information, as necessary;
(g) The intention to use voluntary cooperation under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, if applicable.

6. How the Party considers that its nationally determined contribution is fair and ambitious in the light of its national circumstances:
(a) How the Party considers that its nationally determined contribution is fair and ambitious in the light of its national circumstances;
(b) Fairness considerations, including reflecting on equity;
(c) How the Party has addressed Article 4, paragraph 3, of the Paris Agreement;
(d) How the Party has addressed Article 4, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement;

(e) How the Party has addressed Article 4, paragraph 6, of the Paris Agreement.

7. **How the nationally determined contribution contributes towards achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2:**
   (a) How the nationally determined contribution contributes towards achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2;
   (b) How the nationally determined contribution contributes towards Article 2, paragraph 1(a), and Article 4, paragraph 1, of the Paris Agreement.

Annex II

Accounting for Parties' nationally determined contributions, referred to in decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 31

1. **Accounting for anthropogenic emissions and removals in accordance with methodologies and common metrics assessed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement:**
   (a) Parties account for anthropogenic emissions and removals in accordance with methodologies and common metrics assessed by the IPCC and in accordance with decision 18/CMA.1;
   (b) Parties whose nationally determined contribution cannot be accounted for using methodologies covered by IPCC guidelines provide information on their own methodology used, including for nationally determined contributions pursuant to Article 4, paragraph 6, of the Paris Agreement, if applicable;
   (c) Parties that draw on existing methods and guidance established under the Convention and its related legal instruments, as appropriate, provide information on how they have done so;
   (d) Parties provide information on methodologies used to track progress arising from the implementation of policies and measures, as appropriate;
   (e) arties that decide to address emissions and subsequent removals from natural disturbances on managed lands provide detailed information on the approach used and how it is consistent with relevant IPCC guidance, as appropriate, or indicate the relevant section of the national greenhouse gas inventory report containing that information;
   (f) Parties that account for emissions and removals from harvested wood products provide detailed information on which IPCC approach has been used to estimate emissions and removals;
   (g) Parties that address the effects of age-class structure in forests provide detailed information on the approach used and how this is consistent with relevant IPCC guidance, as appropriate.

2. **Ensuring methodological consistency, including on baselines, between the communication and implementation of nationally determined contributions:**
   (a) Parties maintain consistency in scope and coverage, definitions, data sources, metrics, assumptions and methodological approaches;
   (b) Any greenhouse gas data and estimation methodologies used for accounting should be consistent with the Party's greenhouse gas inventories, pursuant to Article 13, paragraph 7(a), of the Paris Agreement, if applicable;
   (c) Parties strive to avoid overestimating or underestimating projected emissions and removals used for accounting;
   (d) For Parties that apply technical changes to update reference points, reference levels or projections, the changes should reflect either of the following:
      (i) Changes in the Party's inventory;
      (ii) Improvements in accuracy that maintain methodological consistency;
   (e) Parties transparently report any methodological changes and technical updates made during the implementation of their nationally determined contribution.
3. **Striving to include all categories of anthropogenic emissions or removals in the nationally determined contribution and, once a source, sink or activity is included, continuing to include it:**
   (a) Parties account for all categories of anthropogenic emissions and removals corresponding to their nationally determined contribution;
   (b) Parties strive to include all categories of anthropogenic emissions and removals in their nationally determined contribution, and, once a source, sink or activity is included, continue to include it.
4. **Providing an explanation of why any categories of anthropogenic emissions or removals are excluded.**

Decision 5/CMA.1: Modalities and procedures for the operation and use of a public registry referred to in Article 4, paragraph 12, of the Paris Agreement

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement,

Recalling Article 4, paragraph 12, of the Paris Agreement and decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 29,

Noting with appreciation the efforts made by the secretariat to develop and maintain an interim public registry pursuant to decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 30,

1. *Adopts* the modalities and procedures for the operation and use of the public registry referred to in Article 4, paragraph 12, of the Paris Agreement as contained in the annex;
2. *Decides* that the interim public registry prepared by the secretariat pursuant to decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 30, shall serve as the public registry referred

to in Article 4, paragraph 12, of the Paris Agreement following any revisions required to bring it into accordance with the modalities and procedures referred to in paragraph 1 above, subject to confirmation by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its second session (December 2019);

3. *Also decides* that the public registry referred to in paragraph 1 above shall be made available by the secretariat, together with the public registry referred to in Article 7, paragraph 12, of the Paris Agreement, through a registry portal with two parts, comprising nationally determined contributions and adaptation communications, respectively;
4. *Requests* the secretariat:
   (a) To develop a prototype of the public registry referred to in Article 4, paragraph 12, of the Paris Agreement by June 2019, and present it to Parties at an event to be held in conjunction with the fiftieth sessions of the subsidiary bodies (June 2019);
   (b) To operate the public registry referred to in Article 4, paragraph 12, of the Paris Agreement, and to provide assistance on its use to Parties, other stakeholders and the public;
5. *Decides* to consider and conclude at its second session whether the prototype referred to in paragraph 4(a) above conforms to the modalities and procedures referred to in paragraph 1 above;
6. *Also decides* that the interim public registry prepared by the secretariat pursuant to decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 30, shall continue to be used on an interim basis for the purpose of implementing Article 4, paragraph 12, of the Paris Agreement until its second session;
7. *Takes note* of the estimated budgetary implications of the activities to be undertaken by the secretariat pursuant to the provisions contained in paragraphs 2–6 above;
8. *Requests* that the actions of the secretariat called for in this decision be undertaken subject to the availability of financial resources.

Annex

Modalities and procedures for the operation and use of a public registry referred to in Article 4, paragraph 12, of the Paris Agreement

I. Modalities for the operation of the public registry

1. The public registry referred to in Article 4, paragraph 12, of the Paris Agreement:
   (a) Presents the recorded nationally determined contributions (NDCs) in tabular format, with one row for each NDC and columns displaying, as appropriate, name of the Party, document title, document file type, version number, status, language and date of submission;
   (b) Preserves the integrity of the NDCs in accordance with their nationally determined nature;
   (c) Has the capability of sorting and allowing the viewing of NDCs;

(d) Avoids unauthorized alterations and deletions of its content by using Internet security measures;
(e) Ensures user-friendly navigation within the registry and to other relevant registries and web resources operated and maintained by the secretariat, including the public registry referred to in Article 7, paragraph 12, of the Paris Agreement;
(f) Utilizes relevant web tools to provide updates and notify users of new and modified registry content;
(g) Constitutes an intuitive, easy-to-use web-based platform;
(h) Provides a user-friendly interface in all six official languages of the United Nations.

II. Procedures for the use of the public registry

A. Submission of nationally determined contributions

2. The national focal point of each Party submits the Party's NDC by uploading it to the public registry using its unique user account.
3. The secretariat:
   (a) Provides Parties with technical assistance on uploading NDCs to the public registry, as required;
   (b) Contacts the national focal point to confirm the receipt of an NDC, requests clarifications when necessary and confirms the finalization of the recording process of the submitted NDC in the public registry;
   (c) Undertakes an Internet security check of all submitted NDCs before recording them in the public registry.

B. Maintaining a record of nationally determined contributions

4. The public registry constitutes an archive and, as a matter of public record, continues to maintain all previously submitted NDCs.

C. Access to nationally determined contributions

5. Parties, other stakeholders and the public can view, read and download NDCs from the public registry.
6. To the extent possible, the public registry should be easily accessible to users with slow Internet connections.

III. Roles

7. The national focal point of each Party is assigned a unique user account to manage the Party's content in the public registry.
8. The secretariat acts as the custodian of the public registry and is responsible for its maintenance. To that end, the secretariat:
   (a) Operates and updates the public registry in accordance with these modalities and procedures, including taking precautionary action to avoid unauthorized access to or alteration of its content;
   (b) Communicates with and provides assistance to Parties, other stakeholders and the public in using the public registry, including through a user guide, training programmes and online support, as appropriate.

Decision 6/CMA.1: Common time frames for nationally determined contributions referred to in Article 4, paragraph 10, of the Paris Agreement

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement,
Recalling Article 4, paragraphs 9 and 10, of the Paris Agreement,
Also recalling decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 23–25,

1. *Welcomes* the progress made1 in the consideration of common time frames for nationally determined contributions referred to in Article 4, paragraph 10, of the Paris Agreement, and *takes note* of the rich exchange of views and range of options considered and proposed by Parties on this matter;2
2. *Decides* that Parties shall apply common time frames to their nationally determined contributions to be implemented from 2031 onward;
3. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to continue the consideration of common time frames for nationally determined contributions at its fiftieth session (June 2019) with a view to making a recommendation thereon for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement.

Decision 9/CMA.1: Further guidance in relation to the adaptation communication, including, inter alia, as a component of nationally determined contributions, referred to in Article 7, paragraphs 10 and 11, of the Paris Agreement

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement,
Recalling relevant provisions of the Convention and the Paris Agreement, in particular Article 7,
Recognizing the importance of flexibility provided to Parties by Article 7, paragraphs 10 and 11, of the Paris Agreement for submitting and updating the adaptation communication,
Recalling decisions 4/CP.5, 17/CP.8 and 5/CP.17,
Recognizing the links between adaptation and sustainable development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,
Emphasizing the intrinsic relationship that climate change actions, responses and impacts have with equitable access to sustainable development and eradication of poverty,
Recalling that continuous and enhanced international support shall be provided to developing country Parties for the implementation of Article 7, paragraphs 7, 9, 10 and 11, of the Paris Agreement, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 9, 10 and 11 of the Paris Agreement,

1. *Notes* that the purpose of the adaptation communication is to:
    1. (a) Increase the visibility and profile of adaptation and its balance with mitigation;

2. (b) Strengthen adaptation action and support for developing countries;
3. (c) Provide input to the global stocktake;
4. (d) Enhance learning and understanding of adaptation needs and actions;

2. *Decides* that the adaptation communication:
   (a) Is country-driven and flexible, including in the choice of communication or document, as provided in Article 7, paragraphs 10 and 11, of the Paris Agreement;
   (b) Shall not pose any additional burden on developing country Parties, is not a basis for comparison between Parties and is not subject to review;
3. *Recalls* that, as provided in Article 7, paragraphs 10 and 11, of the Paris Agreement, each Party should, as appropriate, submit and update an adaptation communication, and that the adaptation communication shall be, as appropriate, submitted and updated periodically, as a component of or in conjunction with other communications or documents, including a national adaptation plan, a nationally determined contribution as referred to in Article 4, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement and/or a national communication;
4. *Decides* that Parties may, as appropriate, also submit and update their adaptation communication as a component of or in conjunction with the reports on impacts and adaptation as stipulated in Article 13, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement;
5. *Recalls* that the adaptation communications shall be recorded in a public registry maintained by the secretariat in accordance with the modalities and procedures contained in decision 10/CMA.1;
6. *Invites* Parties that choose to submit an adaptation communication to do so in time to inform each global stocktake;
7. *Also invites* Parties, according to their national circumstances and capacities, to provide in their adaptation communication information on the elements referred to in paragraph (a–d) of the annex and to provide, as appropriate, additional information on the elements referred to in paragraph (e–i) of the annex;
8. *Further invites* Parties to include, as appropriate, ex ante information in their adaptation communication based on the elements identified in the annex;
9. *Acknowledges* that Parties may, when submitting an adaptation communication, tailor the information provided, taking into account the specific communications or documents used;
10. *Encourages* Parties to clearly identify the part of the communication or document chosen, in accordance with Article 7, paragraph 11, that constitutes their adaptation communication, and to number their adaptation communications sequentially;
11. *Also encourages* Parties that choose to submit an adaptation communication as a component of or in conjunction with a nationally determined contribution to use the guidance included in this decision, as appropriate;

12. *Invites* Parties that opt to use a nationally determined contribution consistently with Article 4, paragraph 7, and in line with paragraph 11 above to provide information on the element referred to in paragraph (f) of the annex;
13. *Acknowledges* that Parties that choose to submit their adaptation communication as part of a national communication or a national adaptation plan may provide information taking into consideration the guidelines contained in document FCCC/CP/1999/7 and decisions 17/CP.8 and 5/CP.17;
14. *Also acknowledges* that adaptation communications and other relevant information will be synthesized in line with paragraph 23(b) of decision 19/CMA.1 and will contribute to reviewing the overall progress in achieving the global goal on adaptation;
15. *Requests* the Adaptation Committee to develop, with the engagement of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group II, using relevant existing guidance as a starting point, as appropriate, by June 2022, draft supplementary guidance for voluntary use by Parties in communicating information in accordance with the elements contained in the annex, for consideration by the subsidiary bodies at their fifty-seventh sessions (November 2022) in the context of their consideration of the report of the Adaptation Committee;
16. *Decides* to take stock of, and if necessary revise, the guidance contained in this decision, taking into account the submissions referred to in paragraph 17 below and the synthesis report referred to in paragraph 18 below, at its eighth session (2025);
17. *Invites* Parties to submit via the submission portal1 by February 2025 information on their experience with the application of the guidance contained in this decision;
18. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare a synthesis report on the submissions referred to in paragraph 17 above for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its sixty- second session (2025);
19. *Urges* developed country Parties and *invites* other Parties that provide resources on a voluntary basis, United Nations organizations, specialized agencies and other relevant organizations as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies to continue to mobilize support for adaptation activities in developing country Parties;
20. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, in line with its existing mandate, to consider channelling support to developing country Parties for the preparation and submission of their adaptation communications, as a component of or in conjunction with other communications or documents, including a national adaptation plan, a nationally determined contribution as referred to in Article 4, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement, and/or a national communication;
21. *Encourages* the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Adaptation Fund, the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the Paris Committee on Capacity- building, in line with their existing

mandates and governing instruments, to continue channelling support to developing country Parties for the implementation of their adaptation plans and actions in accordance with the priorities and needs outlined in their adaptation communication;

22. *Takes note* of the estimated budgetary implications of the activities to be undertaken by the secretariat referred to in paragraph 18 above;
23. *Requests* that the actions of the secretariat called for in this decision be undertaken subject to the availability of financial resources.

Decision 10/CMA.1: Modalities and procedures for the operation and use of a public registry referred to in Article 7, paragraph 12, of the Paris Agreement

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement,

Recalling Article 7, paragraphs 11 and 12, of the Paris Agreement,

1. *Decides* to establish the public registry for adaptation communications referred to in Article 7, paragraph 12, of the Paris Agreement to contain adaptation communications submitted by Parties in accordance with Article 7, paragraph 11, of the Paris Agreement;
2. *Also decides* to adopt the modalities and procedures for the operation and use of the public registry referred to in paragraph 1 above as contained in the annex;
3. *Further decides* that the public registry referred to in paragraph 1 above shall be made available by the secretariat, together with the public registry referred to in Article 4, paragraph 12, of the Paris Agreement, through a registry portal with two parts, comprising adaptation communications and nationally determined contributions, respectively;
4. *Requests* the secretariat:

(a) To develop a prototype of the public registry referred to in paragraph 1 above by June 2019, in accordance with the modalities and procedures referred to in paragraph 2 above, and present it to Parties at an event to be held in conjunction with the fiftieth sessions of the subsidiary bodies (June 2019);

(b) To operate the public registry referred to in paragraph 1 above and to provide assistance on its use to Parties, other stakeholders and the public;

5. *Decides* to consider and conclude at its second session (December 2019) whether the prototype referred to in paragraph 4(a) above shall serve as the public registry referred to in Article 7, paragraph 12, of the Paris Agreement;
6. *Takes note* of the estimated budgetary implications of the activities to be undertaken by the secretariat referred to in paragraph 4 above.

Annex

Modalities and procedures for the operation and use of a public registry referred to in Article 7, paragraph 12, of the Paris Agreement

I. Modalities for the operation of the public registry

1. The public registry referred to in Article 7, paragraph 12, of the Paris Agreement:
   (a) Presents the recorded adaptation communications on a separate page for each Party in tabular format, with one row for each adaptation communication and columns displaying, as appropriate: name of Party; document title; document type; hyperlinks to corresponding documents containing the adaptation communications, as appropriate, submitted as a component of or in conjunction with other communications or documents, including a national adaptation plan, a nationally determined contribution and/or a national communication, as referred to in Article 7, paragraph 11, of the Paris Agreement; and version number, status, language and date of submission;
   (b) Provides the flexibility for each Party to submit its adaptation communication in the way it wishes;
   (c) Has the capability of sorting, recording and displaying adaptation communications;
   (d) Preserves the integrity of the adaptation communications in accordance with their country-driven nature;
   (e) Avoids unauthorized access to or alteration of its content;
   (f) Ensures user-friendly navigation to and between relevant registries and other web resources;
   (g) Utilizes relevant web tools to notify users, upon request, of new and modified registry content;
   (h) Constitutes an intuitive, easy-to-use web-based platform;
   (i) Provides a user-friendly interface in all six official languages of the United Nations.

II. Procedures for the use of the public registry A. Submission of adaptation communications

2. The secretariat:
   (a) Provides each Party with a unique user account for the public registry;
   (b) Provides technical assistance to Parties for uploading adaptation communications to the public registry, as required.
3. The national focal point of each Party submits the Party's adaptation communication by uploading it to the registry, or informs the secretariat of the vehicle used as the adaptation communication.

B. Maintaining a record of adaptation communications

4. The public registry constitutes an archive and maintains the hyperlinks of all previously submitted adaptation communications referred to in Article 7, paragraph 11, of the Paris Agreement as a matter of public record.

C. Access to adaptation communications

5. Parties, non-State actors, other stakeholders and the public can view, read and download the adaptation communications from the public registry.
6. To the extent possible, the public registry should be easily accessible to users with slow Internet connections.

III. Roles

7. The national focal point of each Party manages the Party's interaction with the secretariat regarding the adaptation communication in the public registry.
8. The national focal point of each Party is assigned a unique user account to manage the Party's content in the public registry.
9. The secretariat communicates with and provides assistance to Parties using the public registry, including through a user guide, training programmes and online support.

Decision 11/CMA.1: Matters referred to in paragraphs 41, 42 and 45 of decision 1/CP.21

(…)

9. *Requests* the secretariat to include in the synthesis report prepared for the global stocktake called for in paragraph 23(b) of decision 19/CMA.1 information on the adaptation efforts of developing country Parties, in order to facilitate recognition of such efforts in the global stocktake, drawing on, inter alia, the most recent documents that may contain adaptation information, which may include adaptation communications, national adaptation plans, national communications, nationally determined contributions, other relevant reports prepared under the transparency framework and reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and other relevant scientific bodies;

(…)

31. *Requests* the secretariat to include in the synthesis report prepared for the global stocktake called for in paragraph 23(b) of decision 19/CMA.1 an assessment of the support needs for adaptation of developing country Parties drawing on, inter alia, the most recent documents that may contain adaptation information, which may include adaptation communications, national adaptation plans, national communications, nationally determined contributions, other relevant reports prepared under the transparency framework, reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and other relevant scientific bodies as well as the report referred to in paragraph 13 of decision 4/CP.24;

Decision 18/CMA.1: Modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement

(…)

Annex

Modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement

A. Purpose

1. In accordance with Article 13, paragraph 5, of the Paris Agreement, the purpose of the framework for transparency of action is to provide a clear understanding of climate change action in the light of the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2, including clarity and tracking of progress towards achieving Parties' individual nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under Article 4, and Parties' adaptation actions under Article 7, including good practices, priorities, needs and gaps, to inform the global stocktake under Article 14.
2. In accordance with Article 13, paragraph 6, of the Paris Agreement, the purpose of the framework for transparency of support is to provide clarity on support provided and received by relevant individual Parties in the context of climate change actions under Articles 4, 7, 9, 10 and 11, and, to the extent possible, to provide a full overview of aggregate financial support provided, to inform the global stocktake under Article 14.

(…)

E. Reporting format

10. In the biennial transparency report:
    (…)
    (b) Each Party shall provide the information necessary to track progress in implementing and achieving its NDC under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, in accordance with the MPGs contained in chapter III below;
    (…)
48. Each Party shall report seven gases (CO2, methane (CH4), nitrous oxide (N2O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), sulfur hexafluoride (SF6) and nitrogen trifluoride (NF3)); those developing country Parties that need flexibility in the light of their capacities with respect to this provision have the flexibility to instead report at least three gases (CO2, CH4 and N2O) as well as any of the additional four gases (HFCs, PFCs, SF6 and NF3) that are included in the Party's NDC under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, are covered by an activity under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, or have been previously reported.
    (…)
57. Each Party shall report a consistent annual time series starting from 1990; those developing country Parties that need flexibility in the light of their capacities with respect to this provision have the flexibility to instead report

data covering, at a minimum, the reference year/period for its NDC under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement and, in addition, a consistent annual time series from at least 2020 onwards.

(…)

III. Information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving nationally determined contributions under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement

A. National circumstances and institutional arrangements

59. Each Party shall describe its national circumstances relevant to progress made in implementing and achieving its NDC under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, including:
    (a) Government structure;
    (b) Population profile;
    (c) Geographical profile;
    (d) Economic profile;
    (e) Climate profile;
    (f) Sector details.
60. Each Party shall provide information on how its national circumstances affect GHG emissions and removals over time.
61. Each Party shall provide information on the institutional arrangements in place to track progress made in implementing and achieving its NDC under Article 4, including those used for tracking internationally transferred mitigation outcomes, if applicable, along with any changes in institutional arrangements since its most recent biennial transparency report.
62. Each Party shall provide information on legal, institutional, administrative and procedural arrangements for domestic implementation, monitoring, reporting, archiving of information and stakeholder engagement related to the implementation and achievement of its NDC under Article 4.
63. In reporting the information referred to in paragraphs 59–62 above, a Party may reference previously reported information.

B. Description of a Party's nationally determined contribution under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, including updates

64. Each Party shall provide a description of its NDC under Article 4, against which progress will be tracked. The information provided shall include the following, as applicable, including any updates to information previously provided:
    (a) Target(s) and description, including target type(s) (e.g. economy-wide absolute emission reduction, emission intensity reduction, emission reduction below a projected baseline, mitigation co-benefits of adaptation actions or economic diversification plans, policies and measures, and other);
    (b) Target year(s) or period(s), and whether they are single-year or multi-year target(s);

(c) Reference point(s), level(s), baseline(s), base year(s) or starting point(s), and their respective value(s);

(d) Time frame(s) and/or periods for implementation;

(e) Scope and coverage, including, as relevant, sectors, categories, activities, sources and sinks, pools and gases;

(f) Intention to use cooperative approaches that involve the use of internationally transferred mitigation outcomes under Article 6 towards NDCs under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement;

(g) Any updates or clarifications of previously reported information (e.g. recalculation of previously reported inventory data, or greater detail on methodologies or use of cooperative approaches).

C. Information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving its nationally determined contribution under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement

65. Each Party shall identify the indicator(s) that it has selected to track progress towards the implementation and achievement of its NDC under Article 4. Indicators shall be relevant to a Party's NDC under Article 4, and may be either qualitative or quantitative.

66. These indicators could include, as appropriate, for example: net GHG emissions and removals, percentage reduction of GHG intensity, relevant qualitative indicators for a specific policy or measure, mitigation co-benefits of adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans or other (e.g. hectares of reforestation, percentage of renewable energy use or production, carbon neutrality, share of non-fossil fuel in primary energy consumption and non-GHG related indicators).

67. Each Party shall provide the information for each selected indicator for the reference point(s), level(s), baseline(s), base year(s) or starting point(s), and shall update the information in accordance with any recalculation of the GHG inventory, as appropriate.

68. Each Party shall provide the most recent information for each selected indicator identified in paragraph 65 above for each reporting year during the implementation period of its NDC under Article 4.

69. Each Party shall compare the most recent information for each selected indicator with the information provided pursuant to paragraph 67 above to track progress made in implementing its NDC under Article 4.

70. For the first biennial transparency report that contains information on the end year or end of the period of its NDC under Article 4, each Party shall provide an assessment of whether it has achieved the target(s) for its NDC under Article 4 based on the relevant information described in paragraphs 59–69 above and paragraph 78 below, as applicable, and the most recent information for each selected indicator relevant to tracking progress towards the implementation and achievement of its NDC under Article 4.

71. For the first NDC under Article 4, each Party shall clearly indicate and report its accounting approach, including how it is consistent with Article 4, paragraphs 13 and 14, of the Paris Agreement. Each Party may choose

to provide information on accounting of its first NDC consistent with decision 4/CMA.1.

72. For the second and subsequent NDC under Article 4, each Party shall provide information referred to in chapter III.B and C above consistent with decision 4/CMA.1. Each Party shall clearly indicate how its reporting is consistent with decision 4/CMA.1.
73. Each Party shall provide any definitions needed to understand its NDC under Article 4, including those related to each indicator identified in paragraph 65 above, those related to any sectors or categories defined differently than in the national inventory report, or the mitigation co-benefits of adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans.
74. Each Party shall provide a description of each methodology and/or accounting approach used, as applicable for:
    (a) Target(s), as described in paragraph 64 above;
    (b) The construction of baselines, as described in paragraph 64 above, to the extent possible;
    (c) Each indicator identified in paragraph 65 above.
75. The information referred to in paragraph 74 above shall include, as applicable and available to the Party's NDC under Article 4:
    (a) Key parameters, assumptions, definitions, data sources and models used;
    (b) IPCC guidelines used;
    (c) Metrics used;
    (d) Where applicable to its NDC, any sector-, category- or activity-specific
76. Each Party shall also:
    (a) Describe, for each indicator identified in paragraph 65 above, how it is related to its NDC under Article 4;
    (b) Explain how the methodology in each reporting year is consistent with the methodology or methodologies used when communicating the NDC;
    (c) Explain methodological inconsistencies with its most recent national inventory report, if applicable;
    (d) Describe how double counting of net GHG emission reductions has been avoided, including in accordance with guidance developed in relation to Article 6, if relevant.
77. Each Party shall provide the information referred to in paragraphs 65–76 above in a structured summary to track progress made in implementing and achieving its NDC under Article 4, including:
    (a) For each selected indicator:
        (i) Information for the reference point(s), level(s), baseline(s), base year(s), or starting point(s) referred to in paragraph 67 above;
        (ii) Information for previous reporting years during the implementation period of its NDC under Article 4, identified in paragraph 68 above, as applicable;
        (iii) The most recent information identified in paragraph 68 above;

(b) Where applicable, information on GHG emissions and removals consistent with the coverage of its NDC under Article 4;
(c) Contribution from the LULUCF sector for each year of the target period or target year, if not included in the inventory time series of total net GHG emissions and removals, as applicable;
(d) Each Party that participates in cooperative approaches that involve the use of internationally transferred mitigation outcomes towards an NDC under Article 4, or authorizes the use of mitigation outcomes for international mitigation purposes other than achievement of its NDC, shall also provide the following information in the structured summary consistently with relevant decisions adopted by the CMA on Article 6:
    (i) The annual level of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks covered by the NDC on an annual basis reported biennially;
    (ii) An emissions balance reflecting the level of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks covered by its NDC adjusted on the basis of corresponding adjustments undertaken by effecting an addition for internationally transferred mitigation outcomes first-transferred/transferred and a subtraction for internationally transferred mitigation outcomes used/acquired, consistent with decisions adopted by the CMA on Article 6;
    (iii) Any other information consistent with decisions adopted by the CMA on reporting under Article 6;
    (iv) Information on how each cooperative approach promotes sustainable development; and ensures environmental integrity and transparency, including in governance; and applies robust accounting to ensure inter alia the avoidance of double counting, consistent with decisions adopted by the CMA on Article 6.

78. Each Party with an NDC under Article 4 that consists of adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans resulting in mitigation co-benefits consistent with Article 4, paragraph 7, of the Paris Agreement shall provide the information necessary to track progress on the implementation and achievement of the domestic policies and measures implemented to address the social and economic consequences of response measures, including:
    (a) Sectors and activities associated with the response measures;
    (b) Social and economic consequences of the response measures;
    (c) Challenges in and barriers to addressing the consequences;
    (d) Actions to address the consequences.
79. Each Party shall report the information referred to in paragraphs 65–78 above in a narrative and common tabular format, as applicable. Such common tabular formats should accommodate all types of NDC under Article 4, as appropriate.

D. Mitigation policies and measures, actions and plans, including those with mitigation co-benefits resulting from adaptation actions and economic diversification plans, related to implementing and achieving a nationally determined contribution under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement

80. Each Party shall provide information on actions, policies and measures that support the implementation and achievement of its NDC under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, focusing on those that have the most significant impact on GHG emissions or removals and those impacting key categories in the national GHG inventory. This information shall be presented in narrative and tabular format.
81. To the extent possible, Parties shall organize the reporting of actions by sector (energy, transport, industrial processes and product use, agriculture, LULUCF, waste management and other).
82. Each Party shall provide the following information on its actions, policies and measures, to the extent possible, in a tabular format:
    (a) Name;
    (b) Description;
    (c) Objectives;
    (d) Type of instrument (regulatory, economic instrument or other);
    (e) Status (planned, adopted or implemented);
    (f) Sector(s) affected (energy, transport, industrial processes and product use, agriculture, LULUCF, waste management or other);
    (g) Gases affected;
    (h) Start year of implementation;
    (i) Implementing entity or entities.
83. Each Party may also provide the following information for each action, policy and measure reported:
    (a) Costs;
    (b) Non-GHG mitigation benefits;
    (c) How the mitigation actions as identified in paragraph 80 above interact with each other, as appropriate.
84. For each Party with an NDC under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement that consists of mitigation co-benefits resulting from Parties' adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans consistent with Article 4, paragraph 7, information to be reported under paragraphs 80, 82 and 83 above includes relevant information on policies and measures contributing to mitigation co-benefits resulting from adaptation actions or economic diversification plans.
85. Each Party shall provide, to the extent possible, estimates of expected and achieved GHG emission reductions for its actions, policies and measures in the tabular format referred to in paragraph 82 above; those developing country Parties that need flexibility in the light of their capacities with respect to this provision are instead encouraged to report this information.
86. Each Party shall describe the methodologies and assumptions used to estimate the GHG emission reductions or removals due to each action,

policy and measure, to the extent available. This information may be presented in an annex to its biennial transparency report.

87. Each Party should identify those actions, policies and measures that are no longer in place compared with the most recent biennial transparency report, and explain why they are no longer in place.
88. Each Party should identify its actions, policies and measures that influence GHG emissions from international transport.
89. Each Party should, to the extent possible, provide information about how its actions, policies and measures are modifying longer-term trends in GHG emissions and removals.
90. Each Party is encouraged to provide detailed information, to the extent possible, on the assessment of economic and social impacts of response measures.

Summary of greenhouse gas emissions and removals

91. Each Party that submits a stand-alone national inventory report shall provide a summary of its GHG emissions and removals. This information shall be provided for those reporting years corresponding to the Party's most recent national inventory report, in a tabular format.

Projections of greenhouse gas emissions and removals, as applicable

92. Each Party shall report projections pursuant to paragraphs 93–101 below; those developing country Parties that need flexibility in the light of their capacities are instead encouraged to report these projections.
93. Projections are indicative of the impact of mitigation policies and measures on future trends in GHG emissions and removals, and shall not be used to assess progress towards the implementation and achievement of a Party's NDC under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement unless the Party has identified a reported projection as its baseline as identified in chapter III.B above.
94. Each Party that reports pursuant to paragraph 92 above shall report a 'with measures' projection of all GHG emissions and removals and may report a 'with additional measures' projection and a 'without measures' projection. [i]
95. Projections shall begin from the most recent year in the Party's national inventory report and extend at least 15 years beyond the next year ending in zero or five; those developing country Parties that need flexibility in the light of their capacities with respect to this provision have the flexibility to instead extend their projections at least to the end point of their NDC under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement.
96. Each Party should provide information in describing the methodology used to develop the projections. This information should include:
    (a) Models and/or approaches used and key underlying assumptions and parameters used for projections (e.g. gross domestic product growth rate/level, population growth rate/level);

i A 'with measures' scenario encompasses currently implemented and adopted policies and measures. If provided, a 'with additional measures' scenario encompasses implemented, adopted and planned policies and measures. If provided, a 'without measures' projection excludes all policies and measures implemented, adopted and planned after the year chosen as the starting points for the projection.

(b) Changes in the methodology since the Party's most recent biennial transparency report;

(c) Assumptions on policies and measures included in the 'with measures' projections and 'with additional measures' projections, if included;

(d) Sensitivity analysis for any of the projections, together with a brief explanation of the methodologies and parameters used.

97. Each Party shall also provide projections of key indicators to determine progress towards its NDC under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement.

98. Each Party shall include projections on a sectoral basis and by gas, as well as for the national total, using a common metric consistent with that in its national inventory report.

99. Projections shall be presented relative to actual inventory data for the preceding years.

100. Emission projections shall be provided with and without LULUCF.

101. Projections shall be presented in graphical and tabular formats.

102. Those developing country Parties that need flexibility in the light of their capacities with respect to paragraphs 93–101 above can instead report using a less detailed methodology or coverage.

G. Other information

103. Each Party may provide any other information relevant to tracking progress made in implementing and achieving its NDC under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement.

(…)

E. Progress on implementation of adaptation

110. Each Party should provide the following information, as appropriate, on progress on:

(…)

(d) Implementation of adaptation actions identified in the adaptation component of NDCs, as applicable;

V. Information on financial, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support provided and mobilized under Articles 9–11 of the Paris Agreement

(…)

B. Underlying assumptions, definitions and methodologies

(…)

121. In order to enhance the transparency of reporting, a description of the underlying assumptions, methodologies and definitions, as applicable, used to identify and/or report, including:

(…)

(m) Information on the efforts taken to avoid double counting, including on:

(…)

(iii) How double counting was avoided between the resources reported as provided or mobilized, and the resources used under Article 6

of the Paris Agreement by the acquiring Party for use towards the achievement of its NDC;

(…)

(p) How it seeks to ensure that support provided and mobilized through public interventions effectively addresses the needs and priorities of developing country Parties for the implementation of the Paris Agreement, as identified in country-driven strategies and instruments, such as biennial transparency reports, NDCs and national adaptation plans;

(…)

VI. Information on financial, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support needed and received under Articles 9–11 of the Paris Agreement

A. National circumstances, institutional arrangements and country-driven strategies

130. Developing country Parties should provide information on national circumstances and institutional arrangements relevant to reporting on support needed and received, including:

(…)

(b) Information on country priorities and strategies and on any aspects of the Party's NDC under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement that need support.

(…)

C. Information on financial support needed by developing country Parties under Article 9 of the Paris Agreement

132. Developing country Parties should provide information on financial support needed under Article 9 of the Paris Agreement in textual format, including, to the extent possible and as available and as applicable:

(…)

(b) Description of how the support will contribute to its NDC and to the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement.

133. Developing country Parties should provide, in a common tabular format, information on financial support needed, including the following, to the extent possible, and as available and as applicable:

(…)

(i) Whether the activity is anchored in a national strategy and/or an NDC;

(…)

VII. Technical expert review A. Scope

A. Scope

146. A technical expert review consists of:

(…)

(b) Consideration of the Party's implementation and achievement of its NDC under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement;

(…)

149. Technical expert review teams shall not:
(…)
(b) Review the adequacy or appropriateness of a Party's NDC under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, of its associated description pursuant to chapter III.B above, or of the indicators identified in chapter III.C above;

(…)

B. Information to be reviewed

150. Information submitted under Article 13, paragraphs 7 and 9, of the Paris Agreement shall undergo a technical expert review consistent with the MPGs contained in this chapter. This includes:
(…)
(b) Information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving its NDC under Article 4, as referred to in paragraph 10(b) above, submitted by each Party;

(…)

C. Technical expert review format

(…)

2. Applicability

(…)

158. A Party shall undergo an in-country review for:
(…)
(b) At least two biennial transparency reports in a 10-year period, of which one is the biennial transparency report that contains information on the Party's achievement of its NDC under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement;

(…)

160. A desk review should not be conducted more often than once every five years, for the first biennial transparency report submitted following a Party's communication or update of its NDC under Article 4 or for a biennial transparency report that contains information on the Party's achievement of its NDC under Article 4.

(…)

VIII. Facilitative, multilateral consideration of progress A. Scope

189. A facilitative, multilateral consideration of progress is undertaken with respect to the Party's efforts under Article 9 of the Paris Agreement and the Party's respective implementation and achievement of its NDC.

Decision 19/CMA.1: Matters relating to Article 14 of the Paris Agreement and paragraphs 99–101 of decision 1/CP.21

(…)

23. *Requests* the secretariat, under the guidance of the co-facilitators referred to in paragraph 6(c) above, to prepare for the technical assessment:
    (…)
    (c) A synthesis report on the overall effect of nationally determined contributions communicated by Parties, summarizing the most recent information identified in paragraph 36(b) below;

(…)

II. Sources of Input

36. *Also decides* that the sources of input for the global stocktake will consider information at a collective level on:
    (…)
    (b) The overall effect of Parties' nationally determined contributions and overall progress made by Parties towards the implementation of their nationally determined contributions, including the information referred to in Article 13, paragraph 7(b), of the Paris Agreement;
    (…)
    (h) Fairness considerations, including equity, as communicated by Parties in their nationally determined contributions;

Decision 20/CMA.1: Modalities and procedures for the effective operation of the committee to facilitate implementation and promote compliance referred to in Article 15, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement

(…)

Annex

Modalities and procedures for the effective operation of the committee referred to in Article 15, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement

(…)

III. Initiation and process

(…)

22. The Committee:
    (a) Will initiate the consideration of issues in cases where a Party has not:
        (i) Communicated or maintained a nationally determined contribution under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, based on the most up-to-date status of communication in the public registry referred to in Article 4, paragraph 12, of the Paris Agreement;

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