

Nationally Determined Contribution  
Review and Update  
Recommendations for Azerbaijan

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EU4Climate

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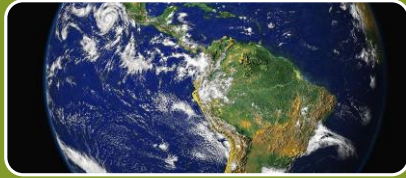
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# What are NDCs?

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- Article 4.2 of the Paris Agreement: „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”.
- Guiding principles: progression and highest ambition possible in mitigation
- May also include adaptation component
- Mandatory NDC cycle: communication of successive NDCs (Art. 4.2) every 5 years (Art. 4.9)

# The Paris Agreement



## COLLECTIVE GOALS

- Long-term temperature goal
- Resilience and low GHG emissions development



## COLLECTIVE EFFORTS

- A global emission trajectory
- Carbon neutrality perspective



## COUNTRY LEVEL EFFORTS

- Successive Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
- Long Term Low Emissions Development Strategies (LT-LEDS, LTS)

# Preparation of NDCs

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- COP.19 in Warsaw (2013) - INDC
- Parties intending to accede/join the Paris Agreement were invited to communicate their intended NDC prior to ratification
- Communicated INDCs became first NDCs (unless decided otherwise by a Party)
- 2018 stocktake confirmed that collective efforts not sufficient to achieve long-term goal
- 2019: countries reiterated invitation to Parties to submit more ambitious/updated/revised NDCs by 2020
- 2020 and thereafter
- All Parties to the Paris Agreement were requested to submit NDCs (new or updated/revised) by 2020 and every 5 years from then onwards
- Transparency Framework established: submission 9-12 months before a CMA, synthesis report, GST (3 years later)
- LT-LEDS – parties were invited to communicate their long term low emission development strategies (until 2050) in 2020
- This process has been disrupted by the COVID pandemic (no COP.26/CMA.2 in 2020, climate negotiations postponed)

# Timeline 2021

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- Parties communicate updated NDCs to the UNFCCC
  - The UNFCCC Secretariat publishes communicated NDCs in the NDC Registry
  - The synthesis report prepared by end of February 2021 (for NDCs communicated by 31 December 2020)
  - In view of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the NDC preparation process, the secretariat will update the initial NDC synthesis report closer to COP 26 to ensure that it contains the latest available information.
  - The final NDC synthesis report will be made available to COP 26 in accordance with decision 1/CMA.2.
  - As of 27 May 2021, out of 192 Parties to the Paris Agreement:
    - 85 countries submitted new (8) or updated (77) NDCs;
    - 73 further countries officially declared that they will submit enhanced NDC
    - *34 countries did not make official declarations* (but are working on their NDCs, eg. Kazakhstan, Republic of Congo, Kyrgyzstan, etc)
    - One country submitted its NDC but has not yet ratified the Paris Agreement (Eritrea)
  - The UNFCCC Secretariat received only 48 NDC updates by 31 December 2020
  - Further 110 + updated NDCs will have to be included in the synthesis report update before COP26
  - Timing of the submission has to be taken into account when planning the scope and extent of the NDC update and the approach to be selected by Azerbaijan
  - Counting backwards (submission of the updated NDC at the latest before the COP26 in November) there are less than 6 months to:
    - Decide on the scope of the update and the procedural approach
    - Conduct interministerial consultations
    - Conduct public consultations
    - Put the draft NDC through the government approval procedure
    - Communicate the NDC to the UNFCCC

# What to include in the NDC?

## 1. Increasing ambition

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- Increasing the target:
  - eg. by moving from relative to absolute target
  - or increasing the stringency of target (eg. from -30% reduction against the reference year emissions to -40% reduction, or updating the reference year)
- Adding targets in sectors (eg. non-GHG targets such as increase of the % of renewable energy in the energy mix)
- Adding or increasing targets for non-CO<sub>2</sub> GHGs

# What to include in the NDC?

## 2. Increasing scope

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- Prior to ratification of the PA, countries did not have uniform guidance on what information to include in their NDCs
- COP.24/CMA.1 in Katowice decisions: 4/CMA.1 (mitigation) and 18/CMA.1 (adaptation) provide guidance
- BUT this guidance is not obligatory before 2024
- Countries have freedom to use this guidance in the 2020/2021 NDC revision/update, or not to use it until 2024.
- Some countries that have already submitted their updated or enhanced NDCs in 2020, have included complete Katowice ICTU in their submissions ( eg. Singapore, Norway, Moldova, Jamaica)
- Others are planning to do so, or have included some ICTU agreed in Katowice (eg. Kazakhstan)
- Yet others have included many more details and background information than expected in line with the guidance (eg. the Republic of Congo, not yet communicated)

# What to include in the NDC?

## 3. Increasing clarity, transparency and understanding

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- ICTU (what is this and why it is important?)
- Updating the reference data, esp. by now obsolete data used in 2015 or 2016;
- Updating and cross-referencing information on government policies and measures, governance, etc.;
- Including or improving information on the MRV (structure, indicators, monitoring and evaluation system);
- Including information on engagement of stakeholders, public consultation process, inclusion of women, young people, vulnerable groups, indigenous people into the NDC planning and implementation;
- Reconciliation with (future) National Adaptation Strategy and (future) LT-LEDS
  - (NDCs as stepping Stones to achieve LT-LEDS mid-century goal)



# Increasing the scope of NDCs

## 4. Adding adaptation component

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- Increasing the scope to adaptation
  - The majority of iNDCs turned NDCs at the time of PA ratification/acceptance contained adaptation component
  - Many developing countries feel that adaptation to CC is as important as mitigation
  - Countries that have not included adaptation in their INDC, may do so now (some sectors/all sectors)
  - Countries may also reference their adaptation goals with their Sustainable Development Goals
  - Adaptation actions can have mitigation co-benefits, while some mitigation measures have adaptation co-benefits (synergy)
- Increasing the mitigation scope to other sectors, or GHGs
- Adding gender component and other cross-sectoral issues
- Expanding the ICTU, eg. by adding information on the Means of Implementation (Finance, Technology and Capacity-building needs) or improving information that has been reported in the INDC

# Decision 9/CMA.1 adopted in Katowice (2018)

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- 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
- Detailed list of ICTU in an annex: Elements of an adaptation communication (elements of the NDC component on adaptation to climate change)

# Adaptation action as defined in the Paris Agreement (Article 7)

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- country-driven,
- gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent,
- taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems,
- based on and guided by the best available science (and traditional and indigenous knowledge, if applicable),
- adaptation should be included into relevant socioeconomic and environmental policies and actions (as appropriate).
- Each party should submit and update periodically its adaptation communication, as a component of, or in conjunction with other communications or documents, including a national adaptation plan (NAP), a nationally determined contribution (NDC) and/or a national communication (NC)

# Summary

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- NDC ambition and scope decided by a country (sovereign decision)
- It is ultimately a political decision
- By signing and ratifying the Paris Agreement, countries have undertaken an obligation to regularly update and communicate their NDCs
- Each NDC must represent a progress compared to the previous one. No backsliding rule
- 2018 ICTU (information increasing clarity, transparency and understanding) not yet obligatory in 2020/2021
- Public consultation process is a necessary element
- Mitigation considered more important than adaptation in connection with the joint Long-Term goal (of limiting Climate Change), except for the Least Developed Countries
- A swift decision on *what* (update, additional ICTU, ambition, scope) and *how* (consultants, working groups, process, involvement of stakeholders, etc) is advisable