

NDC Design

Systematic analysis

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are central for the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Its long-term temperature goal can only be reached when Parties progressively commit to ambitious climate targets and establish a clear plan for their implementation. NDCs are heterogeneous in nature and thus challenging to compare. We have developed a methodology to analyse NDC design through four key elements. A selection of new and updated NDCs, submitted in 2020 and 2021, was analysed with regards to their mitigation ambition. They were also analysed for comprehensiveness and transparency, and whether they include a clear path towards implementation.

20 countries were selected which recently submitted an updated or second NDC.

5 out of the 10 largest emitters of greenhouse gases are included in the analysis.

Small and large countries from all continents are included.

20 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE:



- 1 | Argentina
- 2 | Australia
- 3 | Brazil
- 4 | Cambodia
- 5 | Colombia
- 6 | European Union
- 7 | Jamaica
- 8 | Kenya
- 9 | Mexico
- 10 | Nepal
- 11 | Panama
- 12 | Republic of Korea
- 13 | Republic of Moldova
- 14 | Russian Federation
- 15 | Rwanda
- 16 | Tonga
- 17 | United Kingdom
- 18 | United States of America
- 19 | Viet Nam
- 20 | Zambia

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A

INCREASED AMBITION

Of the analysed NDCs, several showed higher mitigation ambition compared to the first NDC. However, in several cases the targets remained unchanged, or they were more ambitious than previous targets but did not lead to additional reductions than under a Party's "current policies", or were found to be less ambitious due to changes in parameters such as baseline emissions.

B

COMPREHENSIVENESS

Most of the analysed NDCs covered all relevant greenhouse gases and sectors.

C

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

In many cases, the targets and measures have not yet been included in national legislation, but preparations are underway, especially for those countries that updated their target.

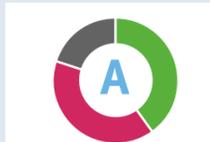
D

TRANSPARENCY

Most NDCs provided the required information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding. However, in a few cases some details were missing.

	A	B	C	D
	INCREASED AMBITION	COMPREHENSIVENESS	IMPLEMENTATION PLAN	TRANSPARENCY
1 Argentina	✓	✓	✓	✓
2 Australia	✗	✓	○	○
3 Brazil	✗	✓	○	✓
4 Cambodia	✓	✓	○	○
5 Colombia	✓	✓	○	✓
6 European Union	✓	✓	✓	○
7 Jamaica	✓	○	✓	✓
8 Kenya	✗	✓	✓	✓
9 Mexico	✗	✓	○	○
10 Nepal	?	✓	○	○
11 Panama	?	○	✓	○
12 Republic of Korea	✗	✓	✓	○
13 Republic of Moldova	?	✓	○	✓
14 Russian Federation	✗	✓	○	○
15 Rwanda	✓	○	○	✓
16 Tonga	?	○	✓	○
17 United Kingdom	✓	✓	✓	✓
18 United States of America	✓	✓	○	✓
19 Viet Nam	✗	✓	○	✓
20 Zambia	✗	✓	○	✓

- ✓ Fulfilled
- Partially fulfilled
- ✗ Not fulfilled
- ? Unclear



MAIN MESSAGES FOR EACH OF THE ANALYSED NDCS

1 | ARGENTINA

Argentina is one of two countries that fulfilled all four elements. However, some details relating to the accounting of LULUCF emissions are not provided in the second NDC.

2 | AUSTRALIA

Australia's updated NDC contains the same target as the first NDC, hence it did not increase its mitigation ambition. Most of the details to facilitate transparency are included, but details on implementation are not included.

3 | BRAZIL

Brazil's updated NDC contains the same percentage reduction as the first NDC, but it is less ambitious because base year emissions have been corrected upward compared to the first NDC. The NDC is comprehensive but no details on the implementation of the targets are provided.

4 | CAMBODIA

Cambodia pledged greater emission reductions in its updated NDC; however, some open questions remain relating to implementation and transparency.

5 | COLOMBIA

Colombia increased its mitigation ambition, transparency, and comprehensiveness in its updated NDC. Colombia now commits unconditionally to higher emissions reductions. While the target is not yet included in national legislation, plans are well underway.

6 | EUROPEAN UNION

The EU increased its mitigation ambition from a -40% emissions reduction to a -55% reduction. This new target was recently enshrined in EU legislation, but some questions relating to accounting modalities remain.

7 | JAMAICA

Jamaica extended the scope and ambition of its NDC; however, it does not yet cover all sectors.

8 | KENYA

Kenya's updated NDC target is slightly more ambitious than its previous submission, but still above current policy projections. It therefore does not represent an increase in mitigation ambition. While its previous target was fully conditional to international support, the new NDC states that 21% of the costs will be borne domestically.

9 | MEXICO

Mexico's updated NDC is less ambitious – while the targets remain the same, the baseline scenario has been revised upwards leading to a higher emissions level in 2030. Unlike the first NDC, it no longer contains sectoral targets.

10 | NEPAL

Nepal's second NDC is comprehensive and includes more information regarding sectoral targets; however, some details are still missing.

11 | PANAMA

Panama's updated NDC covers two main sectors and includes an implementation plan, but not enough information is available to judge whether the updated NDC constitutes an increase in ambition.

12 | REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The Republic of Korea's updated NDC target is the same as the target of its first NDC, when expressed in terms of an absolute emissions limit. Hence it did not increase mitigation ambition. However, the president of the Republic of Korea announced that the government plans to increase its GHG reduction targets for 2030 by COP26. The NDC is comprehensive and information on implementation is provided.

13 | REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

The Republic of Moldova pledged slightly higher emissions reductions in its updated NDC. However, it cannot be judged whether the NDC constitutes an increase in ambition because of various methodological updates which have taken place since the first NDC was communicated.

14 | RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The Russian Federation's first NDC results in slightly lower emissions levels in 2030 but it is not more ambitious than the INDC, as the target can still be reached without additional policies.

15 | RWANDA

Rwanda's updated NDC is more ambitious and transparent than its first NDC. While Rwanda had previously not specified a reduction target and a baseline, it now sets an overall emissions reduction target for 2030 with unconditional and conditional components.

16 | TONGA

Tonga's second NDC introduced a new sectoral emissions target, which cannot be compared directly to the first NDC. The NDC covers the energy sector only; it provides information on implementation for several sectors.

17 | UNITED KINGDOM

The United Kingdom is one of two countries that fulfilled all four elements. The government submitted a more ambitious mitigation target. Its NDC is comprehensive and transparently described, and the framework for its implementation is in place.

18 | UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The NDC submitted by the USA in 2021 constitutes an increase in ambition, as the annual emissions reductions required to meet the new target are considerably higher compared to the original target. However, details on implementation are still open.

19 | VIET NAM

Viet Nam's updated NDC is numerically stronger than the previous NDC. However, it is not more ambitious as both its unconditional and conditional targets can be met without additional policies. The updated NDC covers all sectors and the main greenhouse gases.

20 | ZAMBIA

Zambia's updated NDC does not constitute an increase in ambition, as the pledged emissions reductions remain unchanged compared to the first NDC. Zambia increased the coverage of gases in its NDC and provided comprehensive information relating to transparency.