Guidance Document of NDC Reporting

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Acronyms

AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use
BAU	Business as Usual
BTR	Biennial Transparency Report
CAEP	Climate Action Enhancement Package
CH4	Methane
CMA	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement
CO_2	Carbon Dioxide
CO_2 eq	Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
COP	Conference of The Parties
CRTs	Common Reporting Tables
ETF	Enhanced Transparency Framework
EU	European Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GWP	Global Warming Potential
HFCs	Hydrofluorocarbons
ICTU	Information necessary for Clarity, Transparency, and Understanding
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPPU	Industrial Processes and Product Use
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LULUCF	Land Use, Land-use Change and Forestry
MPGs	Modalities, Procedures, and Guidelines
MtCO2 eq	Metric Tonnes of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
N_2O	Nitrous Oxide
NA	Not Applicable
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NF_3	Nitrogen Trifluoride

PA	Paris Agreement
PaMs	Policies and Measures
PFCs	Perfluorocarbons
QA/QC	Quality Assurance / Quality Control
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
REIOs	Regional Economic Integration Organizations
SF_6	Sulfur Hexafluoride
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timely
TACCC	Transparency, Accuracy, Completeness, Comparability, and Consistency
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Glossary

Accounting Approaches: Methods and principles used to measure, track, and report GHG emissions and removals.

Adaptation Communication: Information provided by parties on their plans and actions to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Annex I to Decision 4/CMA.1: A specific section of the Paris Agreement that outlines the reporting requirements for ICTU in NDCs.

Article 4 of the Paris Agreement: Provisions related to NDCs, including the requirement for parties to prepare, communicate, and maintain successive NDCs.

Article 6 of the Paris Agreement: Provisions allowing for voluntary cooperation between countries to enhance mitigation and adaptation efforts through market and non-market approaches.

Assumptions and Methodological Approaches: The underlying assumptions and methods used for estimating and accounting for GHG emissions and removals.

Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs): Reports submitted every two years by parties to the UNFCCC, detailing their progress in implementing and achieving their NDCs.

Business as usual (BAU) scenario: A projection of future emissions assuming no changes in current policies. It represents emissions trends continuing without additional interventions.

Clarity, Transparency, and Understanding (ICTU): Criteria outlined by the Paris Agreement for reporting NDCs to ensure they are clear, transparent, and understandable.

Conference of the Parties (COP): The supreme decision-making body of the UNFCCC, comprising all countries that are parties to the Convention.

Double Counting: The erroneous practice of counting the same GHG emission reduction more than once, which can undermine the integrity of climate action reporting.

Domestic Mitigation Measures: Actions taken within a country to reduce GHG emissions as part of its NDC.

Economic Diversification Plans: Strategies aimed at broadening the economic base of a country to reduce reliance on a limited number of industries, often included in NDCs to achieve mitigation co-benefits.

Fairness and Ambition: Considerations of how a party's NDC is equitable and reflects the highest possible ambition in light of its national circumstances.

Global Stocktake: A periodic review mechanism under the Paris Agreement to assess collective progress towards achieving its long-term goals.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions: Emissions of gases that trap heat in the atmosphere, contributing to global warming and climate change.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventories: Comprehensive accounts of all GHG emissions and removals within a country's borders, often based on IPCC guidelines.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Guidelines: Methodological guidelines provided by the IPCC for estimating and reporting GHG emissions and removals.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Metrics: Standardized measurements and methods developed by the IPCC for estimating the impact of various climate forcers.

Kyoto Protocol: An international treaty preceding the Paris Agreement, which set binding GHG emission reduction targets for developed countries.

Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (LULUCF): A sector involving the management of land and forests that can act as sources or sinks of GHG emissions.

Least Developed Countries (LDCs): Nations with the lowest socioeconomic development indicators, needing significant international support.

Mitigation Co-benefits: Additional benefits on reducing GHG emissions arising from actions aimed at achieving other objective, such as climate change adaptation or economic diversification.

Non-Market Approaches: Cooperative strategies that do not involve trading emissions reductions but focus on sharing knowledge, technology, or other resources.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs): National climate plans highlighting efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Paris Agreement: An international treaty adopted in 2015 aimed at limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

Planning Processes: The procedures and institutional arrangements involved in preparing and implementing NDCs.

REDD+: A framework aimed at reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, fostering conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

Reference Indicators: Specific metrics or baselines used to measure and report progress toward NDC targets.

Reference Points: Baseline years or periods against which progress in reducing emissions is measured.

Scope and Coverage: The sectors, gases, and activities included in a country's NDC.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS): A distinct group of 39 States and 18 Associate Members of United Nations regional commissions that face unique social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities.

Sinks and Reservoirs of GHGs: Natural or artificial systems that absorb and store GHGs from the atmosphere, such as forests and oceans.

Supporting Mitigation and Sustainable Development Mechanism: A framework within Article 6 of the Paris Agreement that facilitates international cooperation for emission reductions while promoting sustainable development.

Technical Expert Review Teams: Groups of experts who assess and verify the accuracy and completeness of countries' GHG inventories and reports.

Time Frames and/or Periods of Implementation: Specific time frames during which NDC targets are to be achieved.

Voluntary Cooperation: Collaborative efforts between countries to achieve higher ambition in their NDCs through shared mitigation and adaptation actions.

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1. Introduction

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are the cornerstones of the Paris Agreement which was adopted by Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the Conference of the Parties (COP) 21 in Paris in 2015. The Paris Agreement calls on Parties to establish NDCs to communicate the actions that they intend to take domestically and, if applicable, internationally, to both mitigate and adapt to climate change. Countries are required to submit their NDCs by 2025, 2030, 2035, and so forth, following the five-year cycle established by the Paris Agreement.

Concerning the reporting of the NDC to the UNFCCC, the first step involves the provision of **information in the NDC to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding (ICTU) of the NDC**, including of the Party's goal(s) and assumptions, and methodological approaches it will use to estimate and account for Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and, as appropriate, removals. ICTU allows to provide transparent information on the contribution NDCs intend to achieve.

In the second step, the Party will provide information in the **Biennial Transparency Reports** (BTR) on progress towards the implementation and achievement of the NDC, considering the accounting approaches elected in the first step. In the BTRs, Parties will also provide information in a structured summary reflecting the outcomes of their NDC accounting and tracking.

What are Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)?

NDCs are crucial for achieving the collective goal of limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels. Each signatory nation to the Paris Agreement is required to outline and communicate their NDCs, reflecting their ambition, targets, and plans for addressing climate change.

The components of NDCs include mitigation targets, which are specific goals for reducing GHG emissions. These can be absolute targets, intensity targets (emissions per unit of GDP), or deviations from a business-as-usual scenario.

The Paris Agreement, under Article 4, paragraph 4[1], provides information for the Parties to choose the type of NDC they should develop and implement, according to the specific characteristics of each Party, and consequently, the type of NDC target that most aligns with it. It is important to be aware of this, as developed Parties have to continue selecting economy-wide absolute emissions reductions, while developing Parties are encouraged to gradually move their targets to economy-wide targets.

[1] UNFCCC. (2015). Paris Agreement. Article 4, paragraph 4. Available at: https://unfccc.int/files/meetings/paris_nov_2015/application/pdf/paris_agreement_english_.pdf#page=3

Additionally, NDCs contain how countries intend to achieve their targets, including policy measures, technological innovations, and financial mechanisms.

NDCs can contain conditional and unconditional targets (Figure 1). Unconditional targets are those that a country commits to achieving without requiring external support. These targets are based on the country's own resources and capabilities. On the other hand, conditional targets depend on receiving external assistance, such as financial aid, technology transfer, or capacity building from other countries or international organizations. These conditional targets typically represent a higher level of ambition, demonstrating what a country could achieve with the necessary support.

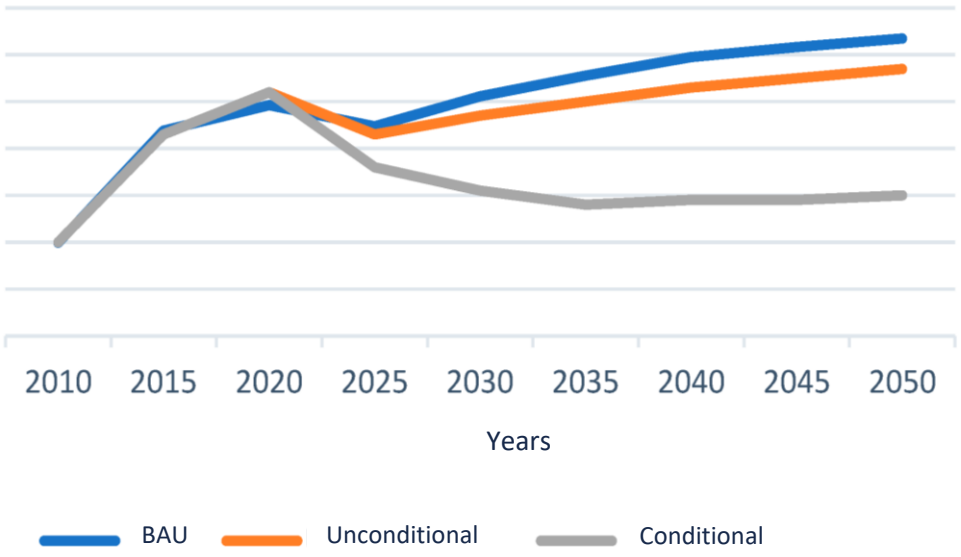

Figure 1. Unconditional and conditional NDC targets.

Adaptation measures can also be included, detailing actions to build resilience against the adverse effects of climate change, protecting communities, ecosystems, and economies.

Are there different types of NDC targets?

Yes, there are different types of NDC targets. The nature and scope of the NDC is defined by each Party, with the guiding principles that developed country Parties should take the lead by undertaking economy-wide emission reduction targets and developing country Parties should continue to enhance their mitigation efforts and are encouraged to move to economy-wide reduction or limitation commitments over time. Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) have the option to develop strategies, plans or actions for low-GHG emission development.

NDCs vary in their goals and approaches, as they are defined at the national level. This diverse range of targets reflects the unique circumstances and priorities of each country. Some common classifications for the goals set out in NDCs are listed below:

1. **Absolute emission reduction or limitation target relative to a base year:** Reduce GHG emissions compared to a certain year or period (Figure 2).

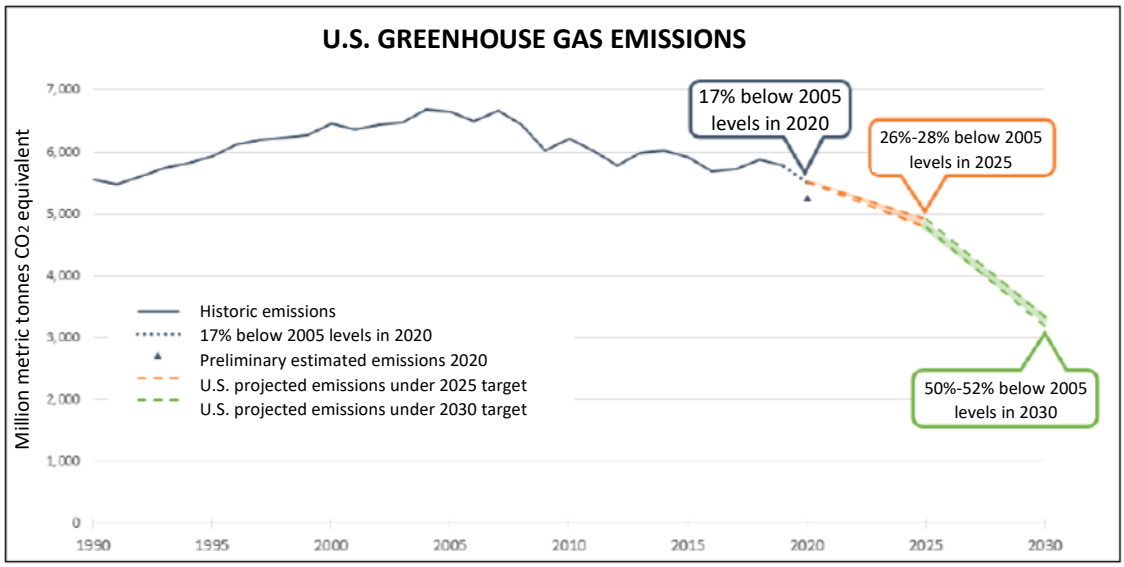

Figure 2. United States historic emissions and projected emissions under 2030 target.

2. **Emission reduction target below a 'business as usual'(BAU) level:** Commit to emitting less than what would happen under normal conditions (without implementing mitigation policies, actions and measures) (Figure 3).

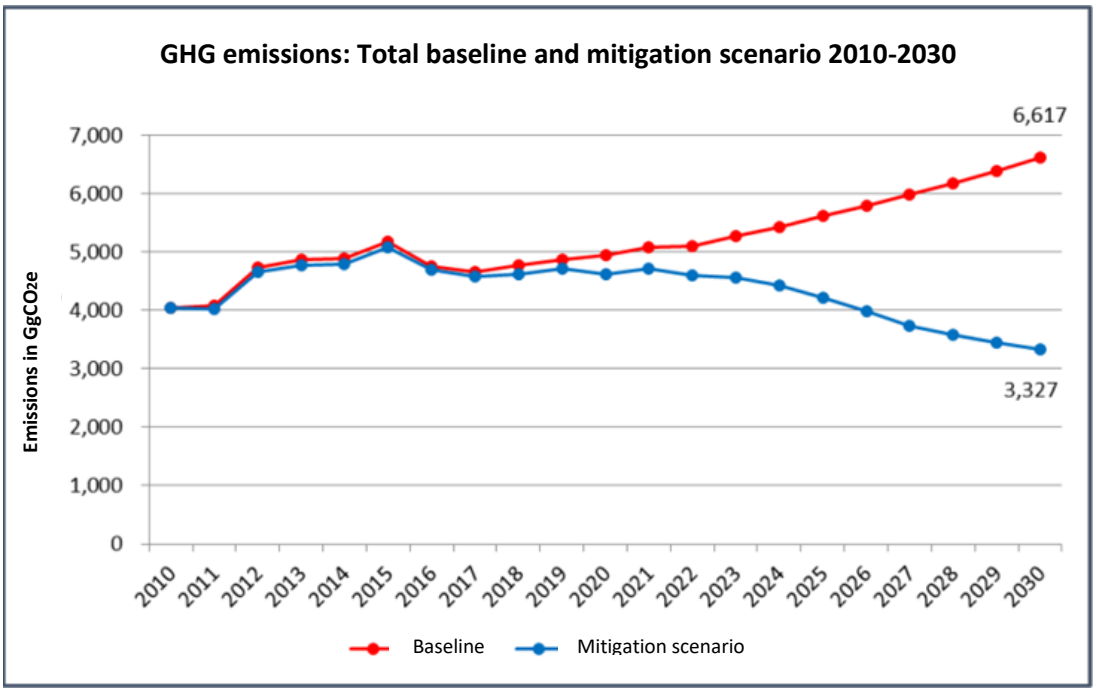

Figure 3. Gambia emission reduction target below a baseline.

3. **Intensity target:** Limit emissions per unit of output (like per GDP or per capita).

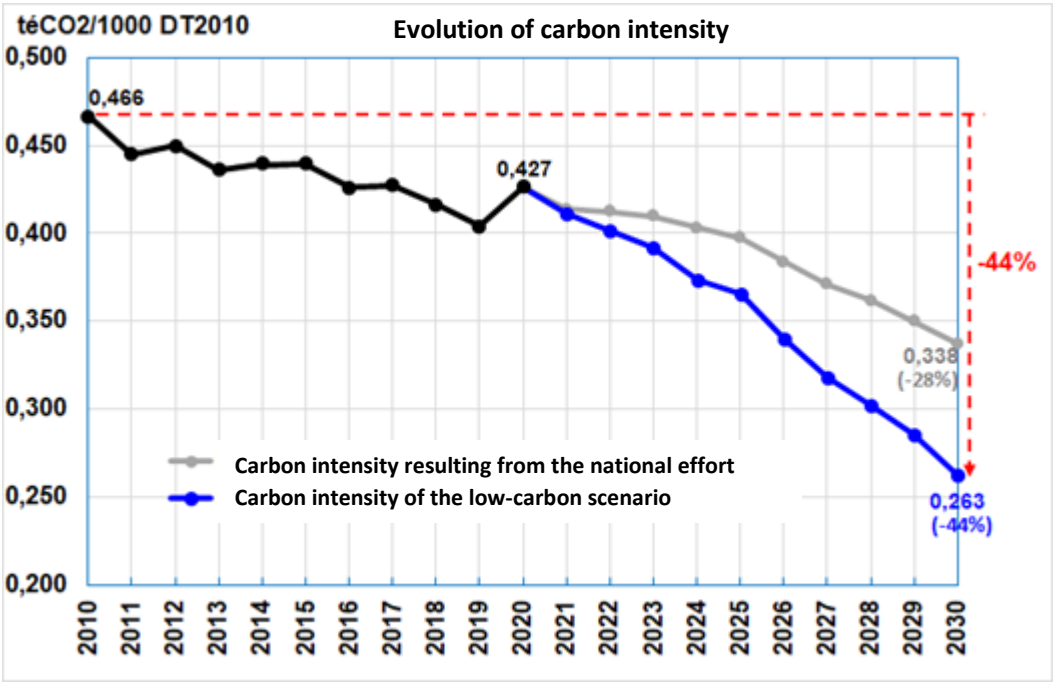

Figure 4. Tunisia NDC intensity target.

4. **Peaking target:** Allow emissions to increase for a while before reaching a peak. In this context, the country may define what a 'peak' is.
5. **Carbon budget target:** The Party chooses the maximum amount of emissions it will emit in a time period.
6. **Policies and actions:** Implement policies and actions to address climate change without specific emission targets.
7. **Other:** Include goals like mitigation co-benefits of adaptation actions or diversification plans and non-GHG targets such as air pollutants emission reduction.

Can Parties include more than one target in their NDCs?

Yes, Parties can include more than one target in their NDCs, and they may have several types of goals (for instance, increase of renewable energy capacity in addition to the emission reduction target). Furthermore, parties can propose both conditional and unconditional targets in their NDCs. Unconditional targets are those that a country commits to achieving using its own resources, while conditional targets depend on receiving international support, such as financial aid or technological assistance. This allows developing countries to outline ambitious climate actions that are contingent on external support, thereby highlighting their needs for achieving greater mitigation goals.

What does "Information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding (ICTU)" mean?

ICTU refers to the detailed information that countries provide to ensure that their NDCs are clear, transparent, and understandable. This information helps build trust and accountability among nations, enabling effective tracking of progress towards global climate goals. What constitutes the ICTU will differ by the specific type of NDC and the national circumstances of the Party.

The reporting of a NDC following ICTU enables a) Countries to track progress of their NDCs and report on this progress in their BTRs and b) estimate the combined impact of all NDCs at the global level.

All Parties with GHG goals, non-GHG goals, or both in their NDC, must provide ICTU as applicable to their NDCs[2].

As NDCs may contain more than one goal (ex. GHG emission reduction, increase of renewable capacity, etc), the seven categories of information presented in the following section called "ICTU template" should be reported for each NDC goal. However, some of the details provided in the ICTU (e.g. planning processes and how the NDC contributes towards achieving the objective of the Convention) may be common to more than one goal

[2] United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). (2020). Pocket Guide to NDCs Under the UNFCCC. Available at: https://unepccc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020-pocket-guide-to-ndcs.pdf

in the NDC and may be described accordingly, whereas other elements, such as reference points, time frames and assumptions and methodological approaches may be unique for each goal.

The following figure illustrates the broad categories of ICTU that must be provided in the NDC, as applicable.

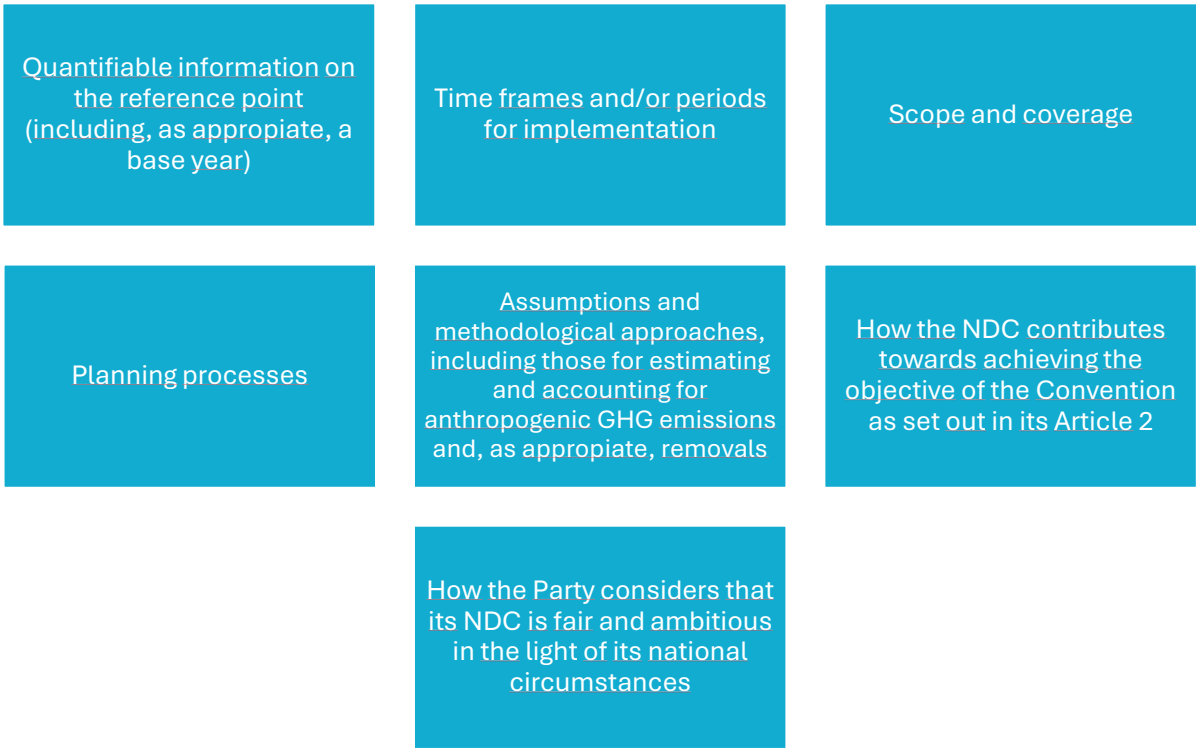

Figure 5. Type of information to be included in the NDC.

The reporting requirements set out in Annex I to Decision 4/CMA.1 on ICTU of NDCs are summarised in the Table 1, following the broad categories presented above.

Next sections of this guidance document provide explanations of the meaning of every reporting issue of the NDC under ICTU together with practical examples from submitted NDCs.

Table 1. Information to be reported to facilitate ICTU of the NDC.

1. Quantifiable information on the reference point (including, as appropriate, 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.

You can find submitted NDCs here to explore how countries are presenting their NDC taking into account ICTU.

This document provides guidance on the information that should be reported under each category of the ICTU of the NDC and starts with a proposal on how the information to facilitate ICTU of your NDC can be presented in your NDC in tabular format (called ICTU template).

On the following chapters we will delve in more detail on the information that is required for the Parties to include in their NDCs regarding each broad category of the ICTU and the national circumstances of the Parties.

2. ICTU template

The following table serves as a reporting template that countries can use to fill the types of information that all Parties could consider when drafting and communicating their NDC following the provisions of Decision 4/CMA.1, Annex I. It presents the specific information to be communicated in the NDC, as applicable, to ensure ICTU.

Table 2. Proposal of ICTU reporting template in tabular format.

Reference in Decision 4/CMA.1, annex I		NDC
QUANTIFIABLE INFORMATION ON THE REFERENCE POINT		
Type of target		
1(a)	**Reference year**	
1(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**	
1(d)	**Target relative to the reference indicator, expressed numerically, for example, in percentage or amount of reduction**	
1(e)	**Sources of data used in quantifying the reference points**	
1(f)	**The circumstances under which the Party may update the values of reference indicators**	
TIMEFRAMES AND/OR PERIODS OF IMPLEMENTATION		
2(a)	**Timeframe/period of implementation, including start and end date**	
2(b)	**Whether it is a single-year or multi-year target, as applicable**	
SCOPE AND COVERAGE		
3(a)	**General description of the target**	
3(b)	**GHG covered**	
3(b) and 3(c)	**Sectors covered, categories and pools** (including explanation on how the Party has taken into account paragraph 31 (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*] and (d) [*Parties shall provide an explanation of why any categories of anthropogenic emissions or removals are excluded*] of decision 1/CP.21	
3(d)	Mitigation co-benefits resulting from adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans, including description of specific projects, measures and initiatives of adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans.	
PLANNING PROCESSES		
4(a)	**Planning processes and implementation plans** (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.	
4(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	

Reference in Decision 4/CMA.1, annex I		NDC
	of the agreement, **in accordance with Article 4, paragraphs 16–18, of the Paris Agreement**	
4(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	
4(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.	
ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES, INCLUDING THOSE FOR ESTIMATING AND ACCOUNTING FOR ANTHROPOGENIC GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND, AS APPROPRIATE, REMOVALS		
5(a)	**Assumptions and methodological approaches used for accounting of GHG emissions and removals**	
5(b)	**Assumptions and methodological approaches used for accounting for the implementation of policies and measures, or strategies** in the NDC.	
5(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	
5(d)	**IPCC methodologies and metrics** used for estimating anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and removals	
5(e)	**Sector-, category- or activity-specific assumptions, methodologies and approache**s 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.	
5(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.	
5(g)	The intention to use **voluntary cooperation** under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, if applicable.	

Reference in Decision 4/CMA.1, annex I		NDC
HOW THE PARTY CONSIDERS THAT ITS NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION IS FAIR AND AMBITIOUS IN THE LIGHT OF ITS NATIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES		
6(a), 6(b), 6(c), 6(d) and 6(e)	**How the NDC is fair and ambitious in the light of the national circumstances** including: Fairness considerations, including reflecting on equity; How the Party has addressed progression beyond previous NDC and highest possible ambition, How the Party has addressed enhancing its mitigation efforts and economy-wide emission reduction or limitation targets and How LDCs and SIDS could refer to their preparation of strategies, plans and actions for low GHG emission development strategies.	
7(a) and 7(b)	**How the NDC contributes towards achieving the stabilization of GHG concentrations in the atmosphere** including contribution to peaking GHG emissions and achieving the long-term temperature goal of the PA	

Parties should explicitly consider each provision and may choose to take note of, or explain in the NDC, cases where the information required is not applicable owing to the type of NDC they have communicated.

As illustrated in Table 2, the information communicated in the NDC includes the sectors, gases, categories and pools that the Party elects to include in its NDC. ICTU also reflects assumptions and methodological approaches for estimating and accounting for GHG emissions and, as appropriate, removals from these sectors, gases, categories and pools. Accounting for GHG emissions and removals must be in accordance with the methodologies and common metrics adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA). The CMA has adopted the 2006 IPCC Guidelines[3]for Parties to develop their national GHG inventories and they can also use voluntarily the 2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines[4]. Parties are encouraged (voluntary or not mandatory) to use the 2013 Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Wetlands.

[3] Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). (2023). 2006 IPCC guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories. Available at: https://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/2006gl/

[4] Paragraph 20 of the Annex to Decision -/CMA.1 Modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement. Available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp24_auv_transparency.pdf

3. ICTU of the NDC

This section breaks down the main ICTU categories, highlighting the importance of each to ensure the information presented by Parties is comprehensible, transparent, and consistent. Additionally, specific examples from various countries are illustrated to provide a clear view of how each category is applied in practice.

Remember! ICTU facilitates the understanding of the information presented in the NDCs and allows the comparison and monitoring of climate commitments at a global level.

3.1 What does "Quantifiable information on the reference point (including, as appropriate, a base year)" mean?

Quantifiable information covers various aspects, including reference years, baseline data, target years, and the overall goal relative to the initial point. It also includes the timeframe for achieving targets, the nature of goals (intensity-based or absolute reductions), data sources, methodologies, and criteria for updating reference indicators.

When quantifiable information is not applicable, Parties may provide qualitative perspectives on their goals.

Table 3. Quantifiable information of the NDC.

Reference in decision 4/CMA.1, annex I	Information provided for clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs	Explanation of the type of information to be provided, together with NDC, when applicable
Paragraphs 1(a), 1(b), 1(d) and 2(b)	Reference year(s), base year(s), reference period(s) or other starting point(s); quantifiable information on the reference indicators and their respective values in the selected start year(s) and target year(s), including whether this refers to a single year or multi-year target; indication of the target relative to the reference indicator.	Provide the start year(s) and target years(s), including whether the target will be achieved in a single year or the Party has a budget over multiple years. What is the overall goal compared with the start year? (e.g. X per cent below 1990 by 2030 on an absolute basis, renewable energy target by 2025, etc.) Is the indicator intensity-based? Is the goal an absolute reduction? Is the action related to technology uptake, etc.?
Paragraphs 1(e), 1 (f) and 5(f)	Information on the sources of data used in quantifying reference point(s) and indicators and under which circumstances the Party may update the values of those reference indicators.	Provide information on the reference indicators, baseline(s) and/or reference level(s), including how sector, category or activity-specific reference levels are constructed, including, for example, key parameters, assumptions, definitions, methodologies, data sources and models used. Provide relevant references for any data and assumptions applied, and what, if anything, could trigger an update to those values (e.g. the 1990 emissions level in the GHG has been updated to reflect more accurate data).

Reference in decision 4/CMA.1, annex I	Information provided for clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs	Explanation of the type of information to be provided, together with NDC, when applicable
Paragraph 1(c)	For strategies, plans and actions referred to in Article 4, paragraph 6, of the Paris Agreement, or policies and measures as components of NDCs where paragraph 1(b) above is not applicable, Parties are to provide other relevant information.	LDCs and SIDS could describe their strategies, plans and actions for low GHG emissions development. Where provision of quantifiable information on reference indicators is not applicable to a Party's communicated NDC, it could provide other qualitative information related to the goal(s) (e.g. a narrative description of intended actions, milestones and drivers).

Source: 2022 UNFCCC Reference Manual for the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement (UNFCCC, 2022).

The first two columns are extracted from the relevant provisions in Annex I to Decision 4/CMA.1. The last column provides further guidance on the types of information that might be considered.

While Article 4 requires Parties to communicate their NDC targets, there is more than one type of target, so it is important to ensure clarity for every target. For this reason, Parties are asked to provide an explanation of their selected target(s).

Considering the amount of options for target selection (including whether they are conditional or unconditional) and that Parties can combine targets (e.g. peaking emissions by a target year together with policies to increase forest cover), it is necessary to provide information for clarity, transparency, and understanding in this regard to avoid confusion on what each Party's NDC is intended to achieve.
Parties to the Paris Agreement determine the % reduction in GHG emissions, but compared to what reference? If we do not know the value to which the reducing emissions target is compared, we cannot be sure of the target's validity. Over how many years (period) does the NDC apply? Providing information on expected start and end points, and on base or reference years and periods helps answer these questions. Parties thus need to provide information on the reference year(s), base year(s), reference period(s) or other starting point(s).

Contextual information needs also to be provided so external reviewers can understand the goal and determine its contribution to Article 2 of the Paris Agreement.

Table 4. Examples of quantitative information for various types of targets in NDCs.

Type of NDC target	Examples of description of the target that includes the starting and end points by type of target
1. Absolute emission reduction or limitation target relative to a base year	20% GHG emissions (t CO_2 eq.) reduction in 2030 compared to 2005 emission level to be achieved over a reference period extending from January 1st, 2021, to December 31st, 2030. For this target the starting point is 2021, the end point is 2030 and the base year is 2005.
2. Emission reduction target below a "business as usual" level	20% GHG emissions reduction in t CO2 eq. compared to "business as usual" (BAU) scenario in 2030 over the period 2021 to 2030 For this target the starting point is 2021, the end point is 2030 and the reference year is 2030.
3. Intensity target	35% reduction in GHG emissions per unit of GDP in 2030 taking 2010 as a reference year to be achieved in the period from January 1st, 2020, to December 31st, 2030 For this target the starting point from which the target (emissions reduction per GDP) is to be implemented is 2020 with end point in 2030 and the base year is 2010.
4. Peaking target	A maximum of 1950 national GHG emissions in kt CO_2 eq. during the period 2021-2030. For this target the starting point from which the GHG emissions will continue to grow to reach a peak is 2021 with end point in 2030.
5. Policies and actions	List of policies and measures to be implemented, with the implementation periods and the emission reduction potential by policy when possible to be achieved in the target year.
6. Other (e.g. mitigation co-benefits of adaptation actions, non-GHG targets)	Description of adaptation actions and diversification plans i with mitigation co-benefits, with the period of implementation; and, when possible, the emission quantification of mitigation co-benefits to be achieved in the target year.

Source: Adapted from UNFCCC, 2022.

Facilitating this quantitative information on the target makes the target easier to understand, as we now know what we are comparing emissions reductions to and the timeframe for its accomplishment.

How do we select indicators for accounting in "Quantifiable information on the reference indicators and their respective values in the selected start year(s) and target year(s), including whether this refers to a single year or multi-year target"?

In order to track progress in NDC implementation, indicators need to be chosen for each NDC target selected. The selected indicators have to be communicated and quantifiable information about them needs to be shared to track changes in the indicator(s) over time. Parties to the Paris Agreement can select the indicators that they find most relevant to their goals and national circumstances.

For this reason, two Parties with similar targets could employ different indicators, and quantifiable information is needed to understand each reference indicator. It is useful to indicate the value of the indicators in the start year to establish a baseline for comparison, and the expected value at the target year, so advancements can be tracked against an expected outcome or final value.

Indicators can be either quantitative or qualitative, and are most effective when formulated to be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound (SMART). Indicators are directly linked to the NDC target and often focus on GHG emissions and their reduction (e.g. percentual reduction in GHG emissions by year compared to the reference or base year) but can also be different. For instance, a Party having the freedom to select its own indicators, might determine that the percentage of renewable energy in the national fuel mix composition is the most appropriate indicator for the country because the most significant source of GHG emissions in the country is energy generation or the NDC target is a % increase in renewable consumption by 2030.

Additionally, ICTU helps clarify if a target will be achieved in a single year or if, alternatively, it has been devised to represent a target over more than a year (e.g. 30% reductions by 2025 and 35% reductions by 2030). In this second case it is a multi-year target.

For tracking progress during NDC implementation, an indicator example could be «renewable energy capacity installed». This indicator tracks the amount of renewable energy capacity (such as solar, wind, hydro, or biomass) that has been installed within the country during the implementation of the NDC. It provides insight into the deployment of renewable energy technologies, which is often a key strategy for reducing GHG emissions.

Indicators are essential for the ETF under the Paris Agreement, as they facilitate the monitoring and reporting of countries' efforts in their BTRs to meet their climate commitments. Ideally, these indicators should be considered during the development of the NDCs and must be directly relevant to a Party's NDC and effectively track meaningful progress.

Once an indicator has been chosen to track progress, it will be reported in the NDC and used in the next step in the BTRs in the chapter on tracking progress of the NDC.

What does Information on the sources of data used in quantifying reference point(s) and indicators and under which circumstances the Party may update the values of those reference indicators" mean?

Parties are required to provide details on the data sources used to establish reference points and indicators for their NDC targets. This includes information on how these reference levels are determined, such as the parameters, assumptions, methodologies, and models used. Additionally, countries should specify any circumstances that might prompt updates to these values, like revisions to historical emissions data or new methodological approaches that will provide more precise values.

Examples

The following table contains examples of the types of information included in existing NDCs. It has been included for illustrative purposes and should not be seen as prescriptive or limiting in any way the discretion of the Party.

Table 5. Examples of quantifiable information in the NDC.

Information provided for clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs	**Examples**
Reference year(s), base year(s), reference period(s) or other starting point(s); quantifiable information on the reference indicators and their respective values in the selected start year(s) and target year(s), including whether this refers to a single year or multi-year target; indication of the target relative to the reference indicator.	**1.** A Party set a goal of reducing 20% in its GHG emissions in 2030 compared to the BAU scenario. It is a single year target (2030) and the reference indicator is the annual net GHG emissions in MtCO2e minus the BAU GHG emissions in that year which are xxxx MtCO2e. in the starting year of the NDC (ex. 2021) and xxxxx MtCO2e in 2030 (expected reduction corresponding to the 20%). . **2.** Another Party intends to reduce specific GHG emissions per unit of GDP by 35% by 2030 from the level of 2010. It is a single year target (2030) and the reference indicator is the annual GHG emissions per unit of GDP in MtCO2e/USD by year which are xxxx MtCO2e/USD in 2010 and xxxxx MtCO2e/USD in 2030 (expected reduction corresponding to the 35%). **3.** A Party has set out a unconditional target of reducing GHG emissions by 15% by 2030 relative to emissions in 1990, and a conditional target of reducing GHG by 25% by 2030 relative to 1990 emissions (a 10% increase conditioned by access to international investment and support). It is a single year target (2030) and the reference indicator is the annual net GHG emissions in MtCO2e minus the net GHG emissions in MtCO2e in 1990 which are xxxx MtCO2e. in 1990 (the base year) and xxxxx MtCO2e in 2030 (expected reduction corresponding to the 15% and 25% unconditional and conditional targets respectively). **4.** A different Party has set out an unconditional target to reduce GHG emissions by 15% by 2025 and by 17% by 2030, compared to the BAU scenario. The conditional target is to reduce GHG emissions by 36% by 2025 and by 43% by 2030, compared to the BAU scenario. It is a multi-year target (2025 and 2030) and the reference indicator is the annual net GHG emissions in MtCO2e minus the BAU GHG emissions in that year which are xxxx MtCO2e. in the starting year of the NDC (ex. 2021) and xxxxx MtCO2e unconditional and xxxxx MtCO2e conditional in 2025 and 2030 (expected reduction corresponding to the conditional – 15 and 17% - and unconditional targets – 36 and 43 - in 2025 and 2030).

Information provided for clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs	Examples
Information on the sources of data used in quantifying reference point(s) and indicators and under which circumstances the Party may update the values of those reference indicators.	**1.** A Party indicates that the data sources used for the calculation of the target are: i. GHG inventory data for 1990-2017; ii. projections of GHG emissions for the period until 2030 based on GDP forecasts prepared by the Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction to establish the BAU; iii. assessment of progress in the implementation of the previous NDC; iv. assessment of emission reduction potential as a result of development strategies and sectoral programs and projects that provide for the active introduction of renewable sources as well as main provisions of the Strategy for Transition to a Green Economy and sectoral development programs in order to assess the emission reduction potential in 2030 to set the target compared to BAU. The Party has also shared the circumstances for updating the indicators. Updates may be related to the need to improve the quality of the national GHG inventory by refining activity data, using higher-level methodological approaches, updating the national emission factors, and expanding the coverage of emission sources.

3.2 What are the "Time frames and/or periods for implementation"?

The periods for implementation for NDCs under the Paris Agreement refer to the time frames within which countries set and update their NDC targets.

Table 6. Periods for implementation in the NDC.

Reference in decision 4/CMA.1, annex I	Information provided for clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs	Explanation of the type of information to be provided, together with NDC, when applicable
Paragraph 2(a)	Time frame and/or period for implementation, including start and end date and whether it is single year or multi-year.	Indicate the period of implementation of the NDC, noting that Parties are encouraged to apply a five-year time frame. Most of the updates NDCs submitted in 2020-2022 indicate a period of implementation 2021-2030. However, for NDC3.0 to be submitted in 2025, the period of implementation will be 2025-2030 for the updated 2030 targets and 2030-2035 for the new targets.

Source: Adapted from UNFCCC, 2022.

The period of implementation lies in how frequently countries review and adjust their goals. For example, if a country chooses a five-year timeframe, this country will update its goals every five years. If a country chooses a ten-year timeframe, updates occur every ten years.

These updating periods ensure that countries stay on track with their commitments and adapt to changing circumstances, such as advancements in technology or shifts in climate impacts.

Examples

The following table contains examples of the types of information included in existing NDCs. It has been included for illustrative purposes and should not be seen as prescriptive or limiting in any way the discretion of the Party.

Table 7. Examples of describing the periods for implementation in the NDC.

Information provided for clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs	**Examples**
Time frame and/or period for implementation, including start and end date and whether it is single year or multi-year.	**1.** A Party indicates that the mitigation contribution of the NDC extend from 2021 to 2030 and that the target is set for a multi-year time frame. **2.** For some Parties, the selected period for implementation extends from January 1st, 2021, to December 31st, 2030, adopting a single-year target indicator until 2030. **3.** A different Party includes the selected period extends from October 2021 until December 31st, 2030, and the target indicators are single-year and are set for 2030. **4.** Another Party selects a period extending from 2021 to 2030, while selected target indicators that are multi-year (2025 and 2030).

3.3 What does "Scope and coverage" mean?

Scope and coverage refer to the information given that provides clarity on what considerations are included as part of the NDC's mitigation target and its intended effects such as:

- General description of the target.
- Pools, gases, sectors, and categories, including an explanation on how they are consistent with the IPCC Guidelines.
- An explanation to justify the exclusion of categories and gases, if applicable.
- Mitigation co-benefits from other actions such as adaptation or economic diversification, and activities that are important contributors to this, as identified by the Party.

Table 8. Scope and coverage of the NDC target.

Reference in decision 4/CMA.1, annex I	Information provided for clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs	Explanation of the type of information to be provided, together with NDC, when applicable
Paragraphs 3(a) and (b)	General description of the target(s), including sectors, gases, categories and pools.	Provide information to be reported on the gases covered (CO_2, CH_4, N_2O, hydrofluorocarbon, perfluorocarbon, SF_6 and/or NF_3) and the sectors and categories, using the IPCC category classification as defined in the common reporting tables.
Paragraph 3(c)	How the Party considered paragraph 31(c) and (d) of decision 1/CP.21.	Provide information to be reported on the gases covered (CO_2, CH_4, N_2O, hydrofluorocarbon, perfluorocarbon, SF_6 and/or NF_3) and the sectors and categories, using the IPCC category classification as defined in the common reporting tables.
Paragraph 3(c)	How the Party considered paragraph 31(c) and (d) of decision 1/CP.21.	If not all categories/gases have been included, provide an explanation as to why certain sources/sinks have been excluded. Provide an explanation for any category/gas that was previously reported but is no longer reported.
Paragraphs 3(d) and 4(d)	Mitigation co-benefits resulting from Parties' adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans, including descriptions of specific projects, measures and initiatives of Parties' adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans, and how the economic and social consequences of response measures were considered.	Quantitative and/or qualitative information could be provided on the mitigation co-benefits of other actions. Information provided could cover, but need not be limited to, key sectors, such as energy, 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.

Source: UNFCCC, 2022.

A general description of the target is a good starting point, as it provides readers and reviewers with an overview of what the NDC is trying to achieve (e.g. economy-wide emissions reduction). However, this by itself does not provide sufficient information regarding scope and coverage. Additional information is required on the pools, gases, sectors, and categories a Party is contemplating in its accounting and as part of its NDC target. This is needed for transparency, as it increases trust through the sharing of the various elements that are being considered, and how they relate to the categorisation and requirements provided by the IPCC Guidelines.

As part of the information to be provided under scope and coverage, Parties that exclude certain sources, sinks, categories, and gases must explain the motivation behind doing this. This helps ensure consistency, so that a clear picture of the progression of Parties' ambition in their climate change goals can be observed. For instance, if a Party stops recording a gas that it previously accounted for, it may create the false impression that the Party has significantly reduced its emissions when, in reality, it has merely ceased counting that gas. This could indicate a decrease in the Party's ambition to achieve global climate goals, unless the Party provides a clear and justified explanation for this change. For this reason, as part

of ICTU, Parties need to be clear and provide justification when a category or gas is being excluded or no longer being reported.

To better understand what information is required regarding the information on mitigation co-benefits resulting from Parties' adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans, including descriptions of specific projects, measures and initiatives of Parties and how the economic and social consequences of response measures were considered, we will address the following question:

What does "mitigation co-benefits" mean?

Remember that mitigation co-benefits can be thought of as extra positive effects that come from actions meant to solve a specific problem, contributing to mitigation of GHG emissions as well. These co-benefits show how actions taken for one goal, like adaptation to climate change or economic diversification, can also help reducing GHG emissions, through, for example, boosting carbon sinks or curbing emissions.

For example, in agriculture, planting more resilient crops and using renewable energy for storage and processing not only help farmers adapt to climate change but also reduce GHG emissions. Mitigation co-benefits of adaptation in the energy sector are linked to renewable energies, that accordingly decrease fossil fuel consumption. Also, improvements to insulation for adapting to warmer weathers will reduce electricity and wood consumption for heating and decrease cooling needs and energy consumption.

Parties in their NDCs can share information on the plans and activities that could have those co-benefits by providing a description of them and their expected contribution to mitigation. They should also explain how they considered the economic and social consequences of those measures.

In order to provide an example of mitigation co-benefits, we will consider different submitted NDCs to see what information has been provided as co-benefits. As part of ICTU, a Party states that all mitigation co-benefits have been reflected on the national GHG inventory. This Party's co-benefits come from adaptation measures involving nature restoration for flood protection and shade during high temperatures. Other Parties recognize mitigation co-benefits, but they indicate that they have not been quantified as they fall outside the relevant sectors targeted in their NDCs.

ICTU helps us understand more about a country and its NDC even without knowing the country's name. For instance, the first Party covers more gases and all IPCC Guidelines sectors and categories, while the second Party excludes the IPPU sector. Consequently, the first Party does not need to justify omissions, but the second Party must address its ambition to include all gases and sectors in the future, indicating its status as a developing state with more reporting flexibility.

Additionally, the first Party has not identified any significant mitigation co-benefits, whereas the second Party has identified co-benefits, though they were not relevant to its focus. This comparison highlights ICTU flexibility according to national circumstances and its critical role in providing insights into the Parties' goals, circumstances, and progress under the Paris Agreement.

In conclusion, Parties to the Paris Agreement need to be exhaustive and consistent when discussing scope and coverage, so that the scope of the contribution is clear and the value of the NDC does not become diluted due to misunderstandings on what areas the NDC is addressing and what it is considering for the achievement of emissions reductions.

Examples

The following table contains examples of the types of information included in existing NDCs. It has been included for illustrative purposes and should not be seen as prescriptive or limiting in any way the discretion of the Party.

Table 9. Examples of description of scope and coverage of the NDC targets.

Information provided for clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs	**Examples**
General description of the target(s), including sectors, gases, categories and pools.	**1.** A Party describes its target as an absolute economy-wide emission reduction, clearly states the gases covered (CO2, CH4, N2O, HFCs, PFCs, SF6, NF3) and sectors consistent with the IPCC Guidelines (energy, IPPU, Agriculture, LULUCF, Waste). **2.** Another Party indicates that its target is to generate an 86% of energy with renewable sources in the electricity sector. This Party's NDC takes into account the Energy, Waste, and Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sectors, while considering the GHGs CO2, CH4, and N2O. **3.** A Party has included the general description of the goal, that is the reduction of emissions in relation to the baseline scenario. The NDC target includes the sectors of Energy, Agriculture, IPPU, and Waste. The GHGs covered are Carbon dioxide (CO2), Methane (CH4), Nitrous oxide (N2O) and Perfluorocarbons (PFCs). **4.** Another Party mentions that the general description of the goal is consistent with a relative reduction in specific GHG emissions per GDP across the economy compared to the baseline year emissions. The gases covered are CO2, CH4, N2O and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). The sectors covered are Energy, IPPU, AFOLU and Waste. **5.** Another Party described its target as an economy-wide reduction of emissions. The gases covered are CO2, CH4, N2O, HFCs, PFCs and sulfur hexafluoride (SF6). The sectors included in the NDC target are Energy, IPPU, AFOLU, and Waste. **6.** A different Party has provided two general descriptions of the target. For the unconditional target, emissions cap of 60 to 70% of existing GHG emissions in the reference year by 2030, understood as 21.32 to 24.97 MtCO2eq by 2030 or 1.9 to 2.2 tCO2eq per capita. For the conditional target, emissions cap of 50 to 60% of existing GHG emissions in the reference year level by 2030, understood as 17.76 to 21.32 MtCO2eq by 2030 or 1.5 to 1.9 tCO2eq per capita. The gases covered are CO2, CH4 and N2O. The IPCC sectors covered are Energy, IPPU, AFOLU and Waste.

Information provided for clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs	Examples
	7. Another Party includes the general description of the target as to unconditionally reduce GHG emissions by 16% by 2025 and by 31% by 2030, compared to the business-as-usual scenario. If international support is provided, GHG emissions will be reduced by 2025 by 36% and by 2030 by 43%, compared to the business-as-usual scenario. The gases covered are CO2, CH4, N2O, and HFCs. The sectors covered are Energy, IPPU, AFOLU, and Waste.
How the Party considered paragraph 31(c) and (d) of decision 1/CP.21.	**1.** A Party has included all categories of GHG emissions and removals according to the Common Reporting Tables of the national GHG inventories. **2.** Another Party provides a list of categories and gases which are not estimated in its GHG inventory and not included in the NDC with a rationale for their exclusion and expresses its commitment to expanding the scope and coverage of its NDC in future submissions, so it may include all categories and be more consistent with the completeness principle of the IPCC Guidelines. **3.** A Party excludes emissions of HFCs, PFCs, SF6 and nitrogen fluoride explaining that the contribution of HFCs accounts for only 0.2% of total GHG emissions, and statistical reporting has not yet been developed to estimate emissions of other fluorinated gases. The Party also indicates that it will continue to improve the reporting on GHGs in the IPPU sector and expects to expand the range of calculation categories. **4.** Another Party has not included the FOLU sector in the NDC target, explaining that the available activity data is not complete as not all carbon pools are included in the emission/removal estimates, many assumptions are used to estimate emissions, and it is extremely difficult to track fulfilment of commitments on increasing removals. However, emissions caused by natural perturbations estimated in accordance with the available IPCC Guidelines are included in the NDC target. The Party finally indicates that it will continue improving the reporting of GHG emissions and removals in the AFOLU sector, which will require updating its methodologies.

Mitigation co-benefits resulting from Parties' adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans, including descriptions of specific projects, measures and initiatives of Parties' adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans, and how the economic and social consequences of response measures were considered.	**1.** A Party has indicated that mitigation co-benefits do not apply to the target at the time of submission.
	
	2. Mitigation co-benefits are listed in another Party's NDC but not quantified because they are not included in the NDC target.
	
	3. A Party mentions that forest projects that create additional carbon quotas can produce several co-benefits on mitigation, including conservation of biodiversity, production of non-timber forest products and soil protection.
	
	4. Another Party mentions how adaptation measures such as afforestation can bring additional mitigation outcomes, but they are not quantified in the NDC target.
	
	5. A different Party identifies qualitatively mitigation co-benefits by sector such as economically efficient and environmentally sustainable management of water resources, promoting agriculture conservation, forest protection and sustainable management, promoting regeneration and nature-based solutions or encouraging the development of technologies for a circular economy.
	
	6. Another Party also identifies in their NDC adaptation measures with mitigation co-benefits by sector such as
	• **Agriculture**:
	  ○ Improving land use practices in the face of climate change.
	  ○ Strengthening climate resilience in crop production, strengthening climate resilience of pasture infrastructure.
	  ○ Development of climate resilient livestock breeding.

Information provided for clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs	Examples
	○ Creation of climate-smart financial services and products in agriculture. ○ Development and launch of a state program for climate-oriented support of agriculture. • **Energy**: ○ Developing a policy for the development of the energy sector taking into account climate issues, gender aspects and interests of vulnerable groups. ○ Increase the resilience of the energy infrastructure from climatic emergency. ○ Diversification of electricity sources due to the impact of climate change on the country's hydropower. • **Healthcare**: ○ Improving climate resilience of health infrastructure. • **Forest and Biodiversity**: ○ Improving climatic resilience of forest ecosystems. ○ Introduction of mechanisms to reduce the vulnerability of forest ecosystems and biodiversity from climate change. • **Intersectoral (climate resilient areas and green cities)**: ○ Development of methodologies and pilot policies for a "green" climate and a sustainable development of regions and cities, taking into account gender aspects and interests of vulnerable groups.

3.4 What are "Planning processes"?

Countries need to provide information on their domestic governance arrangements for communicating updated NDCs every five years. Each country will approach the development of its NDC implementation plan as appropriate to its national circumstances.

However, it is likely that, in each case, this process will include consultations with key stakeholders to understand the priorities in different sectors and across national and subnational levels of government, and to identify activities for which there may already be support and momentum for their implementation. Accordingly, cooperation may be required between sector entities, subnational entities and the central coordination unit for NDC update and implementation.

Table 10. Description of planning processes in the NDC.

Reference in decision 4/CMA.1, annex I	Information provided for clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs	Explanation of the type of information to be provided, together with NDC, when applicable
Paragraph 4(a)	Information on the planning processes to develop the NDC.	Information could include the domestic institutional arrangements (e.g. the institutions, actors, procedures involved), national circumstances affecting these procedures (e.g. geography, national priorities, etc.) and other contextual information the Party deems relevant.

Reference in decision 4/CMA.1, annex I	Information provided for clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs	Explanation of the type of information to be provided, together with NDC, when applicable
Paragraph 4(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.	If a Party has entered into formal arrangements with another Party to the Paris Agreement, it should notify the secretariat at the time it submits its NDC (Article 4, para. 16) and describe the arrangement with the other Party, and its obligation under that agreement.
Paragraph 4(c)	How the Party's preparation of its NDC has been informed by the outcomes of the global stocktake.	The global stocktake will result in a CMA decision and/or declaration that will reference the thematic summary reports and a factual cross-cutting synthesis report from the technical assessment component. The decision will identify opportunities and challenges for enhancing action and support, as well as possible measures and good practices, including for international cooperation. Parties could describe how they have considered these outputs.

Source: UNFCCC, 2022.

The following key concepts are essential for understanding what information has to be included under this ICTU category.

What are joint agreements?

Joint agreements refer to arrangements made between multiple parties, including regional economic integration organizations (REIOs) and their member states, to collectively fulfil their obligations under Article 4, paragraph 2 of the Paris Agreement. These agreements entail coordinated efforts to address climate change, typically involving shared goals, actions, and responsibilities.

To illustrate, consider the example of the European Union (EU) and its member states, along with Iceland, participating in a joint agreement in 2015 for the fulfilment of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.[5] They committed to jointly achieve a 20% reduction in their combined GHG emissions for the period 2013-2020 compared to the level in 1990 or their chosen base year.

What is the global stocktake? [6]

The global stocktake is a crucial process within the Paris Agreement framework. It occurs every five years and spans about 1.5 to 2 years. During this time, parties to the agreement, along with non-party stakeholders, come together to evaluate how well the agreement is being implemented and assess collective progress toward its long-term goals.

[5] https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Agreement%20Notification_EU%20Joint%20fulfilment_E_.pdf
[6] More information about the global stocktake available at: https://unfccc.int/topics/global-stocktake/about-the-global-stocktake/why-the-global-stocktake-is-important-for-climate-action-this-decade

This assessment covers a wide range of factors related to both mitigating GHG emissions and adapting to the climate change impacts. It includes reviewing GHG emission data provided by parties, assessing progress made in meeting their climate commitments (NDCs), and evaluating the support provided for finance, technology, and capacity-building. Moreover, the global stocktake also examines efforts related to addressing loss and damage caused by climate change and measures taken in response to climate impacts. It considers equity issues and relies on the latest scientific findings.

The main goal of the global stocktake is to provide an overview of how effectively parties are collectively progressing toward the Paris Agreement's long-term objectives. It does not focus on individual parties but generates broad insights and key messages that all parties can use to improve their climate actions and support efforts, based on their own national circumstances.

The insights gained from the global stocktake are intended to guide parties in developing their subsequent NDCs in a progressive manner, ensuring that there's no regression in climate efforts and encouraging international collaboration for effective climate action.

Examples

The following table contains examples of the types of information included in submitted NDCs. It has been included for illustrative purposes and should not be seen as prescriptive or limiting in any way and is left to the discretion of the Party.

Table 11. Examples of description of planning processes in the NDC.

Information provided for clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs	**Examples**
Information on the planning processes to develop the NDC.	**1.** The NDC preparation process for a Party was inclusive and multisectoral, engaging various sectors of society and key ministries, including public and private stakeholders, academic experts, civil society organizations, and representatives of vulnerable groups. The country acknowledged significant support from international bodies and international banking structures, listed in the document. The NDC was based on several national strategic documents and programs, also listed in the NDC. The NDC development reflected mitigation measures discussed with national stakeholders during 2019-2021. **2.** Another Party mentions that the NDC was developed under the guidance and supervision of the National Hydrometeorological Service Institution and supported by an International UN Implementing Partner and an Interagency Working Group represented by key ministries and agencies. It also includes the description of the legal and regulatory framework, the methodological framework, the national circumstances taken into account in the planning process, the implementation plans to be achieved and the institutional mechanisms.

Information provided for clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs	Examples
	3. Another Party includes the institutional framework developed as the basis for reducing GHG emissions with the designated responsibilities, and the tasks allocated to the working body for the implementation of international treaties in the field of climate change in relation to the NDC update and implementation. **4.** Another Party indicates that mitigation efforts were discussed by national stakeholders followed by sectoral assessments for the update of the NDC. Sector-level and inter-ministerial technical working groups were planned, drafts were shared to government and civil society, and comments and feedback were included into the final version. **5.** Another Party established a state body responsible for developing policy in the field of environmental protection with a secretariat to the Coordination chaired by the Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and with the responsibility of fulfilling the tasks of ensuring the overall coordination and strategic management of processes to fulfil international obligations, fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals, and develop measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change through the development of a green economy. The institutional structure for the implementation of the NDC also includes sectoral government bodies that oversee the development and implementation of the relevant policies. **6.** Another Party describes that the preparation of the NDC was centred on an impact assessment, including stakeholder input derived through public consultation. Gender equality and a balanced participation that includes children, young people, and women has been a priority in the planning process. All legislative acts are subject to a public consultation before adoption by their Parliament and their Council. This includes an enhanced governance system related to integrated planning, reporting and monitoring in climate and energy policy fields, including with respect to climate and energy targets, policies, measures and projections, inventories and provisions for multi-level public participation as well as public consultations.
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.	**1.** A Party's NDC proclaims that Member States within that Party act jointly under Article 4 paragraph 2. The targets are set for the Party as a whole and for its Member States individually.
How the Party's preparation of its NDC has been informed by the outcomes of the global stocktake.	**1.** Due to the fact that the global stocktake was not yet done at the time of the updated NDC submission, Parties inform in their NDCs that the outcomes of the first global stocktake will be taken into account for future NDCs.

3.5 What are "Assumptions and methodological approaches, including those for estimating and accounting for anthropogenic GHG emissions and, as appropriate, removals"?

This section is a key component to provide information that is clear, understandable, and transparent within the ETF as it clarifies the methodology and assumptions that have been used by the country to account for GHG emissions by sources and removals by sinks to set up the targets, and for the development of strategies and Policies and Measures (PaMs).

In the NDC Parties should specify if they are using the IPCC Guidelines and describe the selection of methods and assumptions employed for the update of the NDC. It is very important to describe the accounting methods applied, providing definitions and clarifications so that other Parties to the Agreement can compare and/or understand results. Clarifying the methodological approach also eases tracking NDC progress through clarity on how estimates are being obtained and what assumptions and methodologies are being used for these calculations.

Table 12. Description of methodological approaches in the NDC.

Reference in decision 4/CMA.1, annex I	Information provided for clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs	Explanation of the type of information to be provided, together with NDC, when applicable
Paragraphs 5(a)–(f)	Assumptions and methodological approaches used for accounting for GHG emissions/removals and or policies/measures/strategies.	For Parties using the IPCC guidelines: The Party could describe: (1) the use of the relevant IPCC guidelines (methods, metrics, assumptions for specific categories and gases); (2) treatment of LULUCF (e.g. natural disturbances, the age-class structure of forests, whether accounting will be land-based or activity-based); (3) parameters, assumptions, methods, definitions and data sources related to the development of reference indicators, drivers, base years, target years, baseline construction and triggers for making adjustments to any factors; (4) how it has taken into account transparency, accuracy, completeness, consistency and comparability, promoted environmental integrity and avoided double counting (Article 4.13 and 4.14); (5) if applicable, the financial, technological and/or capacity- building support needed to implement the intended goal(s).
		For Parties with a non-GHG component or gases not included in IPCC guidelines: (1) information on assumptions and methodological approaches used in relation to those components; (2) if applicable, financial, technological and/or capacity building support needed to implement the intended goal(s).
Paragraph 5(g)	Intention to use voluntary cooperation under Article 6.	Does the Party intend to enter (or has the Party already entered) into an agreement to use voluntary cooperation? If so, further information on the assumptions and approaches and the Parties concerned could be provided, if known.

Source: UNFCCC, 2022.

What items should be considered for inclusion in Methodological Approaches?

Methodological Approaches refers to the methods, metrics, and assumptions a Party is using for the accounting of different categories and gases, including:

- Information on how the LULUCF is considered and the type of accounting that is being employed.
- Clear and consistent definitions in line with the 2006 IPCC Guidelines.
- List of relevant data sources and explanation of the approach taken to avoid double counting.
- An outline of the consideration given to the transparency, accuracy, completeness, consistency and comparability (TACCC) principles.
- Information on the approach taken for the development of baselines.
- Information on the sectors (e.g. Energy, Waste), gases (e.g. CO2, CH4), categories (e.g. energy generation, transportation), and pools (e.g. wetlands, deadwood...) considered that are appropriate for the NDC, and the ones not considered explaining the reason why.

If a Party has a non-GHG target, they are still required to provide information on the methods, definitions, and assumptions that could facilitate the interpretation of the target.

Methodological approaches for the accounting of GHG emissions need to be in accordance with the 2006 IPCC Guidelines. Additionally, Parties can use the 2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPPC Guidelines and the Wetlands Supplement, although they are not mandatory but rather suggested.

It is important to remember that 2006 IPCC Guidelines update the Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines as well as the 2000 and 2003 Good Practice Guidance and that the 2019 Refinement is an improvement of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines which, if used, has to be used together with the 2006 IPCC Guidelines selecting one or the other for every category according to what better reflects the national circumstances. If a Party is using both the 2006 IPCC Guidelines and the Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines with its Good Practice Guidance it will be very important to specify how and why as otherwise there will be a risk of double counting or omission of GHG estimates that should be clearly communicated in the NDC.

Additionally, Parties need to describe data availability and access from relevant ministries, institutions, and organisations as well as the assumptions made and the methods selected to address any potential data gaps.

If there have been changes in reported information, like inventories and projections, Parties need to communicate the updated information and provide clarifications where necessary. This can include information on new GHG inventory calculations, resulting in changes

affecting NDC target selection, new methodologies in use, and other relevant information, such as cooperative approaches and updated calculations for emissions and removals. Understanding a Party's changes to its methodological approach also ensures consistency in reporting both for BTR tracking and for the Global Stocktake.

Within this section of ICTU, the significance of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement is highlighted. This Article recognizes that some Parties may choose to work together in the implementation of their NDCs to allow for higher ambition in their mitigation and adaptation activities and to promote sustainable development and environmental integrity. This cooperation helps countries to do more than they could on their own. Here are the three ways countries can cooperate:

1. Voluntary Approaches with International Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs): This means countries can choose to help each other by transferring their achievements in reducing emissions. For example, if one country reduces its emissions more than it was included in its NDC, it can transfer this extra reduction to another country that needs it to meet its own targets. This approach necessitates transparency and rigorous accounting practices to prevent double-counting emissions reductions across countries. If mitigation outcomes are transferred from one country to another, they should be recorded only once to prevent overestimation of total emissions reductions.

2. Supporting Mitigation and Sustainable Development Mechanisms: Countries can also set up a system to support each other in reducing emissions while also promoting sustainable development. This could involve providing financial or technical support to help another country reduce its emissions while improving its economy and quality of life. Under this option, credit systems (e.g. carbon credits) can be set up by Parties to reduce emissions as a market incentive encourages the selling of credits, which in turn ought to promote sustainable development.

3. Non-Market Approaches: This refers to cooperation methods that do not involve buying and selling emissions reductions. Instead, it might involve sharing knowledge, technology, or other resources to help each other tackle climate change.

As an illustration of Article 6 within ICTU, consider the following scenario: A Party, while emphasizing that the majority of its NDC commitments will be achieved domestically, expresses its plan to address a portion of its NDC through ITMOs via bilateral agreements with other Parties. In doing so, the Party underscores the importance of integrity and robust accounting practices, applying stringent rules to prevent double counting and effectively contribute to the fulfilment of its NDC.

Examples

The following table contains examples of the types of information included in submitted NDCs. It has been included for illustrative purposes and should not be seen as prescriptive or limiting in any way the discretion of the Party.

Table 13. Examples of description of methodological approaches in the NDC.

Information provided for clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs	**Examples**
Assumptions and methodological approaches used for accounting for GHG emissions/removals and or policies/measures/strategies.	**1.** A Party describes that it made the estimates of direct GHG emissions in accordance with the methodological approaches set out in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for accounting for GHG emissions/removals and policies, measures and strategies. **2.** Another Party mentions that emission estimations are based on the methodologies of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines and the 100 year values of the global warming potential (GWP) of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report to calculate and present the final CO2 equivalent values. **3.** Another Party mentions that data on 2030 emissions and NDC target achievement will be based on 1990-2030 inventory data available in 2032 which follows the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National GHG Inventories; the 2013 Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National GHG Inventories: Wetlands, the 2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National GHG Inventories, and the GWP values according to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report. The Party also mentions that the National GHG Inventory Report will contain "emissions as a result of natural anomalies on managed lands and emissions from harvested wood products, as well as approaches used, assumptions and their compliance with IPCC guidelines." **4.** Another Party mentions that GHG emissions and removals were estimated using the 2006 IPCCC Guidelines for National GHG Inventories. The GWP used were the following: • CO2: 1 • CH4: 25 • N20: 298 Annual GDP growth and expected population growth are identified as variables that could alter emission values in the GHG emissions assessment. In terms of mitigation, annual GDP growth, population growth, and the implementation of GHG reducing policies are driving elements for the choice of mitigation efforts. The country further shares the elements used for estimating the baseline scenario and impacts of policies and measures at the sector level: • Annual sector GDP growth • Sector's percentage contribution to the country's GDP • GDP per capita • National GHG emissions inventory • Relevant criteria specific to the emissions of each sector **5.** The calculation of emission reductions from mitigation measures by other Party was carried out in relation to the BAU net GHG emissions. The projection of GHG emissions was developed based on the correlation of a long time series of the main factors of development (economic and demographic) with the total GHG emissions, based on the correlation equations of the linear trend of GHG emissions and GDP.

Information provided for clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs	Examples
	However, this Party did not provide information on the assumptions and methodological approaches used for accounting for GHG emissions/removals and or policies/measures/strategies. **6**. Another Party indicated the use of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines methodologies and the GWP of the 5th IPCC Assessment Report, explained the accounting approach for LULUCF, included a description of which categories are estimated using higher tiers (2 and 3) as well as the assumptions for specific categories and gases, described how transparency, accuracy, completeness, consistency, comparability and environmental integrity had been taken into account, described the GHG emission projections methodology as well as the specific indicators proposed to track both the NDC progress and the PAMs together with a list of all parameters, assumptions, methods, definitions and data sources used. The Party also provided a summary of the financial, technological and/or capacity- building support needed to implement the intended conditional goals.
Intention to use voluntary cooperation under Article 6.	**1.** A Party plans to reduce GHG emissions at the national level, but retains the opportunity to participate in the mechanisms of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement through various international mechanisms, including through the linking of emissions trading systems.

3.6 How the Party considers that its nationally determined contribution is fair and ambitious in the light of its national circumstances?

Ensuring that the NDCs are clear, fair, ambitious, and compliant with the Paris Agreement involves careful consideration of unique national circumstances and equity. The definition of "fair" and "ambitious" takes into account economic, social, and environmental factors, balancing the need for significant climate action with development priorities. For instance, in the context of a developing nation, efforts are made to balance economic growth with the imperative to reduce emissions, ensuring that actions are equitable.

Table 14. Consideration of fairness and ambition in light of national circumstances.

Reference in decision 4/CMA.1, annex I	Information provided for clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs	Explanation of the type of information to be provided, together with NDC, when applicable
Paragraphs 6(a) and 6(b)	How the Party considers that its NDC is fair and ambitious in the light of its national circumstances, reflecting on equity.	As Parties will be guided by national circumstances, the narrative provided here will be country-specific, but a Party could describe how it defines “fair” and “ambitious” in this context, taking into account equity.

Reference in decision 4/CMA.1, annex I	Information provided for clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs	Explanation of the type of information to be provided, together with NDC, when applicable
Paragraph 6(c)	How the Party has addressed Article 4, paragraph 3, of the Paris Agreement.	Describe how the current NDC constitutes a progression beyond previous NDCs and reflects the Party's highest possible ambition, reflecting national circumstances. The description could include quantitative (e.g. the GHG emissions target is X per cent more stringent than the previous NDC target) and qualitative elements (e.g. related to policies and measures, national circumstances, financial, technological and capacity building needed and received to date).
Paragraph 6(d)	How the Party has addressed Article 4, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement.	Developed countries could refer to their absolute economywide target and if they do not have such a target, give the reason(s) why. Developing countries could explain how their mitigation actions have been enhanced since previous actions and, where applicable, explain how their actions are moving towards an economy-wide emission limitation or reduction target. The Party may reflect on other relevant national circumstances here.
Paragraph 6(e)	How the Party has addressed Article 4, paragraph 6, of the Paris Agreement.	LDCs and SIDS could refer to their preparation of strategies, plans and actions for low GHG emission development strategies.

Source: UNFCCC, 2022.

Demonstrating an increase of ambition in the update of the NDC involves various strategic approaches and policy adjustments.

How Parties demonstrate an increase of ambition in the update of their NDC?

A Party can demonstrate an increase of ambition in the update of its NDC by setting more stringent targets for GHG emissions compared to previous commitments. For example, if the initial target was a 20% reduction by 2030, the updated NDC could aim for a 30% reduction by 2035. Moving from a relative to an absolute target also demonstrates enhanced ambition. Furthermore, Parties can expand the scope of commitments to include additional sectors or gases that were previously excluded to show increased ambition (for instance, if the original NDC focused primarily on the energy sector, the updated NDC could also include commitments related to agriculture, forestry, or waste management).

Additionally, the country could introduce new strengthened policies and regulations that support emission reductions, such as implementing stricter energy efficiency standards, increasing renewable energy targets, or phasing out fossil fuel subsidies. Strengthening institutional frameworks for climate governance, developing more robust data collection and monitoring systems, and improving coordination among different levels of government also contribute to a more ambitious NDC. Parties can also allocate more national budget resources towards climate action or securing additional international financing that enhances the commitment to climate goals.

Moreover, involving a broader range of stakeholders in the development and implementation of the NDC, and committing to more transparent and rigorous monitoring and reporting systems all help to demonstrate a higher level of ambition.

Examples

The following table contains examples of the types of information included in existing NDCs. It has been included for illustrative purposes and should not be seen as prescriptive or limiting in any way the discretion of the Party.

Table 15. Examples of description of consideration of fairness and ambition in light of national circumstances.

Information provided for clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs	**Examples**
How the Party considers that its NDC is fair and ambitious in the light of its national circumstances, reflecting on equity.	**1.** A Party demonstrated a progression of the ambition in its NDC by increasing the GHG emission reduction target compared to the previous NDC and addressed the question of equity, by ensuring that one of the elements of the NDC is the growth rate of GDP and GDP per capita while decreasing emissions. **2.** Another Party's NDC is considered fair and ambitious because it significantly strengthens GHG reduction goals, aligns with the latest data and global climate targets, balances environmental concerns with socio-economic development, and addresses the country's unique challenges, such as high population growth and industrial development. Despite potential increases in emissions due to economic growth, is committed to mitigating intensity through "green" development strategies. **3.** Another Party justifies the fairness and ambitiousness of the target by focusing on the barriers to NDC implementation the country faces: increasing energy and services prices as a result of carbon pricing, lack of adequate financing for low-carbon projects, not considering climate change in the budgetary process, danger of experiencing natural gas shortages and the required high levels of financial resources for investment and development of gas fields, there are uncertainties surrounding hydropower as a result of many river flows originating in neighbouring countries that are incrementing their water extraction, potential energy cost increase as a risk of integration into regional organizations like the Unified Electric Power Market, effects from COVID-19, and regional instability that reduces trade, disrupts supply chains and hence weaken the economy, and deteriorates social conditions, thus preventing a fast transition to decarbonization. The Party also considers its population density and geography (large territory with low population density and no access to the ocean) as justification for the fairness of its NDC target. **4.** A different Party considers that its NDC is ambitious as it represents a tremendous effort "to maintain emissions" far below of its peak emissions occurred in 1990. The NDC is justified as fair given the Party's status as a developing middle-income country in need of international support, and the low per capita emissions that the country is responsible for in its region.

Information provided for clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs	Examples
	5. For another Party, the NDC is considered fair and ambitious given its small contribution to global GHG emissions and its low average income per capita taking into account that the NDC aims to secure significant reduction of the Party's GHG emissions while satisfying the country's need for economic development, allowing a feasible pathway for long-term decarbonisation.
How the Party has addressed Article 4, paragraph 3, of the Paris Agreement.	**1.** To confirm the ambitious goal of its new NDC, a Party included a emission reduction target that remains the highest of all possible ambitions that the Party can achieve. Due to changing and unforeseen global circumstances, the indicative target for the period up to 2030 represents a greater effort from the country than was originally proposed. Along with the international financial support to cover mitigation costs, the country also demonstrated the need for assistance in the form of technology transfer and capacity building. **2.** Another Party has addressed Article 4, paragraph 3, of the Paris Agreement by committing to growing ambitions in subsequent NDCs and by having incremented its contribution to GHG reductions in its NDC update. **3.** Another Party demonstrates increased level of ambition as its updated NDC represents greater emissions reductions than the previous NDC, and in particular for the unconditional target. The NDC mentions that there is a need for comprehensive capacity building and awareness-raising measures for all sectors of society, and capacity-building measures are listed for all sectors. **4.** Another Party demonstrated that its NDC is fair and ambitious because it includes the economic development plans to ensure sustainable average annual economic growth for the period up to 2030. At the same time, during this period, the growth rate of GHG emissions will significantly lag behind the growth rate of GDP. In this regard, the carbon intensity of the country's economy, as well as the intensity of GHG emissions, will decrease.
How the Party has addressed Article 4, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement.	**1.** A Party explained how their actions are moving towards an economy-wide emission limitation target. **2.** Another Party justified why its mitigation actions are aimed at containing emission growth rather than achieving absolute emission reductions, reflecting its national circumstances and development priorities. The country's favourable conditions for achieving this target include stable and high GDP growth rates, a continued shift towards less energy-intensive industries, and a low growth rate of GHG emissions over the years. Additionally, the country's updated NDC is closely linked to its socio-economic development goals. The Party will continue strengthening its efforts to mitigate climate change, and over time, will move toward economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets based on national circumstances.

3.7 How the nationally determined contribution contributes towards achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2?

This section explores how NDCs assist in stabilizing GHG concentrations and align with the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement. Parties need to explain how its NDC is supporting global efforts to mitigate climate change, taking into account its unique circumstances.

Table 16. Description of contribution to Article 2 of the Convention.

Reference in decision 4/CMA.1, annex I	Information provided for clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs	Explanation of the type of information to be provided, together with NDC, when applicable
Paragraphs 7(a) and 7(b)	How the NDC contributes to achieving the objectives under Article 2 of the Convention and Article 2, paragraph 1(a)), and Article 4, paragraph 1, of the Paris Agreement.	In relation to Article 2 of the Convention, Parties could describe how their NDC contributes to the stabilization of GHG concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous interference with the climate system, national GHG emissions/removals in the target year/period, shifting of the estimated peaking year, or longer term low GHG emission development strategies and plans. In relation to Article 4, paragraph 1 of the Paris Agreement, Parties could describe how their NDC contributes to the objective of the Paris Agreement to hold the global average temperature increase to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit that increase to 1.5 °C. The discussion could, for example, take place in the context of contributing to global peaking of emissions as soon as possible, with strong reductions, thereafter, taking into account national circumstances.

Source: UNFCCC, 2022.

How NDCs help achieve the goals of the Convention?

NDCs help reach the goals of the Convention by stabilizing GHG levels in the atmosphere, reducing national emissions, and planning for long-term, low-emission strategies. They also support the Paris Agreement's aim to limit global temperature rise to well below 2°C, striving for 1.5°C, by contributing to global emission reductions and peaking emissions as soon as possible. These efforts consider each country's unique situation and should be presented in the NDCs submitted by the Parties. Each country's unique situation can be presented in the NDC by addressing the specific economic, social, and environmental conditions of each Party and how the NDC align with national development goals like poverty reduction and economic growth, while ensuring climate action. By tailoring NDCs to their unique situations, countries enhance the feasibility, effectiveness, and equity of their climate actions, contributing meaningfully to global climate goals.

Examples

The following table contains examples of the types of information included in submitted NDCs. It has been included for illustrative purposes and should not be seen as prescriptive or limiting in any way the discretion of the Party.

Table 17. Examples of description of contribution to Article 2 of the Convention.

Information provided for clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs	**Examples**
How the NDC contributes to achieving the objectives under Article 2 of the Convention and Article 2, paragraph 1(a)), and Article 4, paragraph 1, of the Paris Agreement.	**1.** A Party presented in its NDCs its commitment to the goals of the Paris Agreement of keeping a global temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. **2.** A Party explained how the NDC was set up with the aim to contribute to stabilizing the global concentration of GHG emissions in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. **3.** Another Party explained how its carbon neutrality goals contribute to low-emission development and the achievement of the long-term temperature goals set out in Article 2. and the global peak of GHG emissions in the first half of the 21st century taking into account the constraints imposed by the principles of equity, sustainable development and poverty eradication. **4.** A Party commits itself to the aim of Article 2 of the Convention and describes how its economy-wide target is in line with the contributions necessary for Article 2, paragraph 1(a), and Article 4, paragraph 1, of the Paris Agreement.

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