

Decarbonising transport in Azerbaijan.
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Nationally Determined Contributions, NDC review process and Quality Assessment

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What are Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement

NDCs are the building blocks of the Paris Agreement

By joining the Agreement, countries undertake to jointly achieve its long-term goals described in its Article 2:

- (a) Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change;
- (b) Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production; and
- (c) Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.

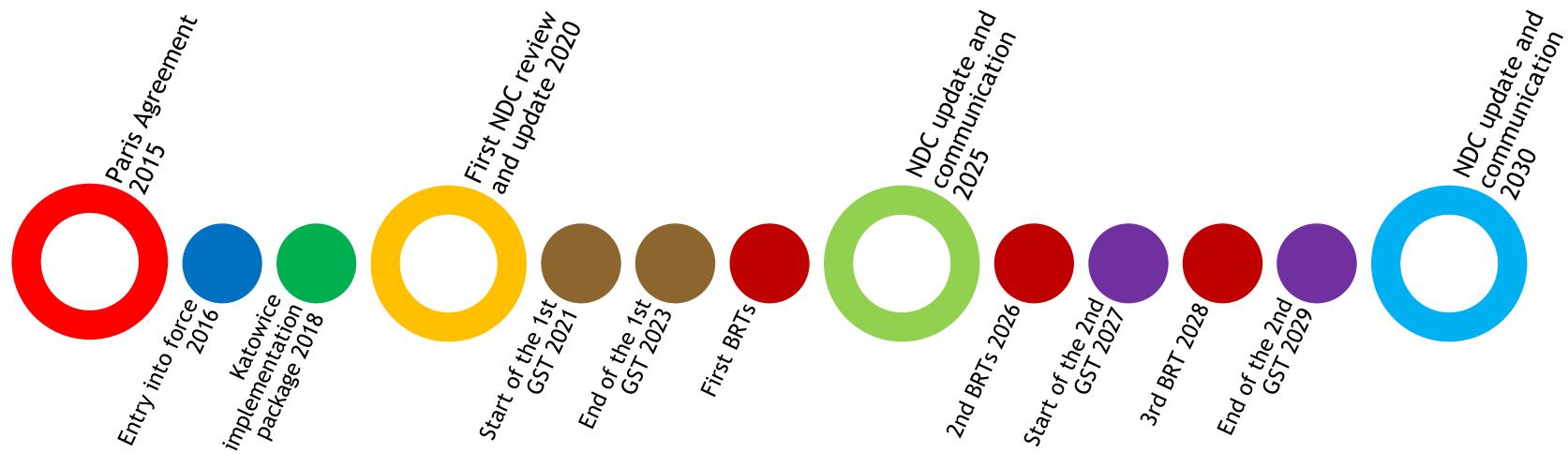
Features of the Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement

Art 4 of PA defines „features of NDCs”: NDCs should represent **progression over time**; represent the **highest possible ambition** (and be adjusted at any time for that purpose - Art.4.11); **include economy-wide reduction targets** or move towards such reduction or limitation targets over time; be **communicated every 5 years**; be **informed with outcomes of every global stocktake**; accounted for to **promote CTU** and ensure **accuracy, completeness, comparability, consistency and avoid double counting**.

All Parties are to undertake and communicate ambitious efforts as defined in Articles 4,7,9,10,11 and 13 with a view to achieving the purpose of the Agreement as set out in Article 2.

The efforts of the Parties will present progression over time, while recognising the need to support developing country Parties for the effective implementation of this Agreement” (Article 3 of PA)

Timeline: the NDC cycle, Global Stocktakes and Biennial Transparency Reporting



First NDCs review and update process 2020 (and beyond)

Decision1/CP.21 (2015):

- *Parties with NDCs timeframe up to 2025 required to communicate by 2020 a new NDC (and to do so every five years thereafter)*
- *Parties with NDCs timeframe up to 2030 to communicate or update their NDC (and to do so every five years thereafter)*
- Talanoa Dialogue - a process leading the the stocktake *on where we are, where do we go and where do we want (and need to be)* started at COP.23 in Bonn and concluded at COP24 in Katowice (a model for future GSTs)
- 2020 deadline for the first review of the INDCs (first NDCs submitted around the PA ratification):
Decision 1/CP.21 para. 25: submissions on NDCs should be made at least 9 to 12 months ahead of the (next) COP
- Madrid Chile COP.25 - call for greater ambition following UNCAS
- 2020 no formal negotiations due to COVID, COP26 postponed to 2021
- 2021 another call for the global increase in ambition of mitigation actions
- Several updated and revised NDCs communicated to the UNFCCC in 2021 and 2022

Rationale for updating NDCs in 2020

- Outcome of the Talanoa Dialogue to inform NDCs: need for speeding up implementation and calls for ambition in the light of Emissions Gap Report, IPCC SR 1.5 °C, GHG Scenarios for major emitters, etc)
- The rulebook adopted in Katowice at COP.24
- Decision 4/CMA.1 (Further guidance for information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding of and accounting for NDCs)
- Decision 18/CMA.1 (Clarity and starting point for enhanced transparency framework, incl. tracking progress on individual countries' NDCs and the first GST in 2023)

- Change of situation on national level since 2015 - new policies and measures, increased engagement of non-party stakeholders (NPS) in Global Climate Action,
- Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol entered into force on 1 January 2019
 - (it will help reduce the production and use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), avoiding global warming by up to 0.4° C this century)
- Long-term signals to the private investors, need to mobilize finance to speed up transformation

Guidance for NDCs update

Guidance for NDCs update:

- Decision 4/CMA.1 (further guidance in relation to mitigation section of Decision 1/CP.21) on
 - features (to be discussed further in 2024),
 - ICTU and Accounting of NDCs (to be revised in 2027)
 - To be applied from 2nd NDCs
- Parties strongly encouraged to apply guidance and provide information explaining CTU for new or updated NDCs from 2020
- CTU guidance based on elaboration of elements of the information identified in paragraph 27 of Decision 1/CP.21.
- CTU guidance may serve as a checklist for the preparation and compilation of the NDC undergoing a review process
- Becomes obligatory for the next round of NDC update/enhancement after the first Global Stocktake
- Compatible with Enhanced Transparency Framework (Decision 18/CMA.1)

Guidance for NDCs accounting useful for the NDC update

Guidance further elaborates on Art.4.13 of PA and para 31 of Decision 1/CP.21:

- To be applied from the 2nd NDCs
- Parties may apply accounting guidance to their first NDCs (updated or enhanced in 2020)
- Provided in the biennial transparency reports (BTRs)
- Key principle - avoiding double counting, no „backsliding”
- Provides common metrics and methodologies (IPCC)
- Guidance for using own methodologies and for PAMs
- Emissions from the land sector included
- Rules for applying technical changes to the reference points
- A requirement to explain, why a category is not included

- Enhanced Transparency Framework - relevant for preparation of the NDC
how?
- Each country shall provide information on the institutional arrangements to track progress
- Each country shall identify indicators selected to track progress (examples: net GHG emissions and removals, percentage reduction of GHG intensity. Relevant qualitative indicators for specific policies or measures, mitigation/economic benefits of adaptation, other *)
- Information to be prepared in a structured summary (tracking progress of NDC)

* area reforested, percentage of RES, share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption, non-GHG related indicators

UNDP NDC Quality Assurance Checklist for reviewing updated NDCs

- Designed to support governments and other stakeholders in the NDC review process
- Based on Paris Agreement, relevant COP and CMA decisions, *UNDP Gender Analysis and NDCs: Short Guidance for Government Stakeholders*
- Outlines three dimensions considered essential by UNDP for ambitious and robust NDC review
 - Country ownership and inclusiveness
 - Robustness and ambition
 - Feasibility

UNDP NDC Quality Assurance Checklist

Dimension one: country ownership and inclusiveness

- This section focusses on efforts to strengthen country ownership through an inclusive engagement process, taking a whole-of-government approach, and engaging stakeholders across the society in the design and implementation of the revised NDC
- What stakeholders have been involved, at what level?
- Consideration of gender, young people, indigenous people and human rights
- Consideration of just transition
- Targeted awareness-raising, education, advocacy.

UNDP NDC Quality Assurance Checklist

Dimension two: robustness and ambition

- This section examines whether the revised NDC is robust and applies guidance for the “information for clarity, transparency, and understanding “, in accordance with the Paris COP decision and further decisions of the CMA.
- Assists countries in communicating specific targets and measures in their revised NDCs and indicating how they compare to the previous NDCs - addressing increased mitigation ambition and enhanced adaptation component.
- Provides guidance on [Enhanced Transparency Framework](#) (essential in the light of the obligatory reporting in BTRs every two years)

UNDP NDC Quality Assurance Checklist

Dimension three: Feasibility

- This section aims to provide guidance to determine whether the NDC revision process has undertaken assessments of costs benefits, financing options, and investment opportunities of NDC actions, both international and domestic public and private sources.
- This section also assists countries to assess governments' institutional, human and technological capacity required for successful NDC implementation.
- Provides questions around:
 - Finance, costs and investment,
 - Institutional arrangements and the capacities for implementation,

UNDP NDC Quality Assurance Checklist

Summary information

- Over 100 NDCs reviewed either before submission to the UNFCCC or after the NDC was published in the NDC registry under Climate Promise;
- A review before submission of the NDC to the UNFCCC allows to refine details and provide additional information that could have been overlooked. It is conducted at request (of the country administration to the UNDP office)
- A review after the submission of the NDC to the NDC registry is conducted by the UNDP to monitor the NDC review process in countries supported by the Climate Promise.
- A similar approach could be useful in preparing first BTRs (Biennial Transparency Reports) that are to be submitted by parties from 2024 every 2 years

Thank you for your attention !!!

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