



African Climate Reality Project

Nationally Determined

Contributions Framework



Introduction

As the world's governments prepare to revise and strengthen their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), due in 2025, it is imperative they are designed and implemented with input from local communities.

We need you, Climate Reality Leaders (CRLs), to influence your country's NDC process by tracking, contributing, and holding leaders accountable for the policies and NDCs of your countries.

ACRP has developed a framework to guide you on what NDCs are, and how to track and engage with them. It also includes an NDC tracker and reading materials.

Purpose of this framework

This framework is intended for CRLs and members of the public interested in strengthening their engagement with decision-makers and holding ministries, governments, or policymakers in their country's accountable by interrogating their NDC and its impact.

While the framework outlines important principles to apply when undertaking such engagements, it does not replace lived experiences and social learning. This framework can be used to identify or create opportunities for meaningful engagement through critically assessing country-specific NDCs in order to hold policymakers, governments, ministries, and decision makers accountable.



What are NDCs?

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are at the heart of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of its long term goals. Every country that is a signatory to the Paris Agreement (referred to formally as ‘parties’) must create country-specific mitigation measures, that are achievable. They must also clearly state their conditions, whether they have the natural resources or finances to see these measures through, or need assistance from other countries.

An NDC is a climate action plan to cut emissions and adapt to climate impacts containing information on targets, policies, and measures for reducing national emissions and adapting to climate change impacts. NDCs also contain information on the needs for, or provision of, finance, technologies, and capacity building for these actions. Countries communicate new or updated NDCs every five years, since 2015.

NDCs are supposed to include plans on how to reach the targets outlined, and elaborate on the systems to monitor progress to remain on track. Since climate finance is key to implementing the plans, NDCs should ideally also detail a financing strategy to help countries begin a transformative shift toward development that is greener and more sustainable. It is important to note that NDCs are completely at the discretion of the countries producing them, and ideally, each version should be more ambitious than the previous one.

NDCs provide an opportunity for rethinking how a society produces and consumes. They can support greater social inclusion for women, youth, and Indigenous communities. Some countries now link NDCs and National Development Plans, including those to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Your country’s NDC should be three things:



Ambitious



Transparent



Equitable



What to look out for

There are seven critical components that you should look for in your country's NDC:

1



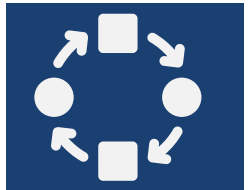
Mitigation:

working toward reducing harmful practices that contribute to causing climate change.

2

Adaptation:

your country's priorities for changing its ways of working and living to adjust to a changing climate.



3



Financial Support:

the amount of financing your country needs to achieve its adaptation and mitigation goals.

4

Technology Transfer:

the materials, resources, and knowledge related to technology your country needs to achieve its goals.



5



Capacity Building:

programmes that ensure citizens are sustained in the journey to achieving these goals, i.e., capacity building, upscaling of skills, and knowledge shares.

6

Transparency:

NDC decision-making processes and the progress made to fulfilling its goals are clear and accessible. Knowledge about your country's decisions, and progress is necessary for you to speak up for what's important to you and hold your leaders accountable.



7



Conditionality:

This is your country's ability to achieve its goals with or without financial or technical support from other countries or any other circumstances. Your country must state which goals are unconditional - i.e., independent from any other circumstance, and which goals are conditional, i.e., dependent on other circumstances - in order to be achieved, such as receiving help from other countries.



Now that you have a better sense of what NDCs are, this is how you can take action!

Help ACRP track the NDCs of countries across Africa, participate in government engagements, and monitor the progress of your country's NDC by asking the following questions:

- **Is your country's NDC process transparent and inclusive?** Remember, NDC processes that ensure that no one is left behind are crucial. When people become aware of how their inputs will be incorporated into NDCs, as well as the mechanisms and key performance indicators for implementation, it fosters a greater sense of ownership.
- **What are the feedback mechanisms** that ensure that the information from the consultations are included in the NDCs?
- **Is there a timely sharing of drafts** that detail the ambition, finances, and implementation plans of the proposed revised NDCs?
- **Is there a robust and accessible governance structure** that facilitates the effective implementation of the NDC?
- **Are there gender-responsive measures** that address the disparities faced by women and children caused by climate change?
- **Are there youth-responsive measures** that create access to meaningful participation in institutional mechanisms to influence NDCs?
- **Are there clear plans** that outline how institutions across all sectors plan to ensure that local communities are capacitated, and that no one is left behind when the transition to a low carbon economy happens?
- **Are there clear finance mechanisms and trackers** that outline which institutions will be serving this mandate, how much will be used per year, and how this money is being tracked?

To monitor and influence your country's climate policies to be more ambitious, use these questions and direct your statements to policymakers and ministries in your country.

African people must be at the table to co-shape actions, strategies, decisions, and outcomes. African leaders cannot continue to underestimate the true value of their communities.



To find your country's NDCs and other resources:

Climate Tracker



Africa Hub



To learn more about NDC processes:

On Equal Terms

NDC Quality Assurance List

Youth-GPS | United Nations Development Programme

UNDP Climate Promise | Helping countries reach their climate goals

Gender checklist

Checklist for Gender Mainstreaming in Project/Programmes - unodc





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