

INDCs to the 2015 Climate Agreement: Regional Dialogue

What makes good an INDC

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1. Warsaw, 2013 *“invite all Parties to initiate or intensify domestic preparations for their intended nationally determined contributions [INDC] (...) in a manner that facilitates the clarity, transparency and understanding of the intended contributions, without prejudice to the legal nature of the contributions » (1/CP19).*
 2. Lima, 2014: parties are being invited to communicate their INDC to the UNFCCC secretariat ahead of COP21 (*“by the first quarter of 2015 by those Parties ready to do so”*). INDC *“may include, as appropriate, inter alia, quantifiable information on the reference point (including, as appropriate, a base year), time frames and/or periods for implementation, scope and coverage, planning processes, assumptions and methodological approaches including those for estimating and accounting for anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and, as appropriate, removals, and how the Party considers that its intended nationally determined contribution is fair and ambitious, in light of its national circumstances, and how it contributes towards achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2”*. They also agreed that a country’s INDC should *“represent a progression beyond the current undertaking of that Party”*. Additionally, after long debates, countries agreed that all parties are invited *“to consider communicating their undertakings in adaptation planning or consider including an adaptation component in their INDC”*.

Key idea number 1: More than numbers and signatures

- Climate change is an urgent challenge, but it is also long-term, complex, and non-linear.
- The transition to a low carbon economy involves many changes: technological, behavioral, structural.
- The agreement needs to create tools to help countries to **navigate this transition**, individually and collectively
- ✓ NDCs go beyond GHG: *how* as well as *what*.
- ✓ Continuous, predictable iteration between short and long-term: NDCs, commitment cycles, and long-term pathways

Key idea number 2: INDCs as a new tool for international action

- National appropriation of the agenda. Top-down vs each one facing its own future.
- Dynamic, cooperative and universal framework: joint action ensures more efficient results. “Positive envy” as a way to accelerate action.
- Novelty of the exercise: many things to be explored; many options to go beyond the minimum.

Key idea number 3: what is a “good INDC”?

- Is there a clear identification of a low carbon goal? But it’s not just about a target...
- The information it provides: does it help to create trust on the options to achieve that goal? Is it meaningful, understandable and consistent? (either in the INDC or any accompanying documentation).
- Does it go beyond BAU?, is there a real added value or it’s a “just repackaging thing”?
- Is there any other field that each Party wants to engage on, to be recognised by or to seek for support in a transparent and sound way?

Key idea number 4: the checking exercise...

- **Ambition:** does the INDC represent a strengthening of the ambition of climate action in each country? How much does it deviate from Business as Usual? How are we to understand its coherence with 2 degrees?
- **How** does the country plan to reach the objective of the INDC? The surrounding communication of the country should provide transparent information on policies and measures they consider to reach the targets presented in their INDC, as a pre-condition to have shared discussions on the policy implementation, create trust, and reveal potential levers for increased ambition or cooperation? Accountability not a simple question of 'legally binding'.
- Coherence with domestic policies: we should wonder how does the INDC relate to **other national policy priorities**? We should get information on the connection between the INDC targets, and policies supporting them and the other domestic priorities, as a crucial driver for a real, comprehensive and long-lasting commitment to a low-carbon and climate-resilient development strategy. We need to make sure that the INDC part of coherent economic and social development strategy?
- The INDC might not bring all the solutions. There might be reasons why the country is not moving further or faster, but these reasons, **these blockages** should also be explained by the country. The same way, **opportunities** can be mentioned, even if the country is not able to exploit them right now, or need help to do so, from the international community or some key partners. This could also be key to increase ambition of subsequent contributions.

Key idea number 5: accountability as a cross cutting theme

- The INDC needs to send a signal of credible commitment
 - To support domestic policy
 - To support the strategic movement of global sectors (low-carbon is the only way forward) -> reinforce government action
- We need to frame the evolution...
 - Transparency and regular cycles and reviewing mechanisms
 - Means to improve and go beyond today's standards
- It's a first step. It requires massive support. Credibility of Governments engagement and ability to act together is what is at stake.
- If the change is inevitable, the question is: do you wait and react or you want to drive the transformation?

Up to day...

date soumission	pays	reduction level	long term	Coverage	period	fairness and ambition	adaptation	REDD? Inclusion of LULUF?	Markets?
SOURCE : http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/indc/Submission%20Pages/submissions.aspx									
2015 02 27	suisse	-50% 2030 (vs. 1990) / -35% 2025 (vs. 1990)	Expected in September	energy; industrial processes and product use; agriculture; land-use, land-use change and forestry; waste / mainly domestically	2021-2030	in line with the recommendations by science		yes, consistent with UNFCCC	yes (partially) to achieve the target
2015 03 06	EU	-40% 2030 (vs. 1990)		economy wide absolute reduction	2021-2030	progression compared to -20% 2020 (vs. 1990)		not decided yet, precisions to come	not for this target
2015 03 27	norway	-40% 2030 (vs. 1990)	carbon neutral in 2050	Economy wide; 100% of emissions covered	2021-2030	in line with the recommendations by science / consistent with industrialised countries taking the lead		want a common framework to account for this, and will account for it in its target	not needed for this target (unless no agreement with EU), but support these mechanisms
2015 03 30	mexico	-25% 2030 (vs. BAU baseline)	could increase up to a 40% in a conditional manner / -50% 2050	nation-wide	?		ADAPTATION ACTIONS IN MEXICO IN THE PERIOD 2020-2030		not for the unconditional target, yes for the other one
2015 03 31	US	-26-28% 2025 (vs. 2005)	-80% or more in 2050	all IPCC sectors / 100% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions	2005-2025 ?	the 2025 target is consistent with a path to deep decarbonization		yes, consistently with IPCC guidelines	no
2015 04 01	Russia	-25-30% d'ici 2030		100% GHG	1990-2030			forest and land-use sinks included (and big part of "how to achieve" the target)	
2015 04 01	Gabon	at least 50% compared to ref scenario		not specified	2000-2025			Ensemble des émissions de GES hors stockage de carbone dans la biomasse forestière	no use of international credits, but domestic fund to be created, to trade carbon credits

Thanks for listening!

All ideas to promote our collective discussion!

A lot of material on our website:

www.iddri.org