



# 2021 NDC Highlights - G20 countries

AMBITION	OVERVIEW	HIGHLIGHTS
	<p>By October 2020, 15 NDC updates or communications were submitted: Marshall Islands, Ecuador; Norway, Moldova, Singapore; Chile; New Zealand; Andorra; Rwanda; Jamaica; Switzerland; Japan; Suriname; Cuba, Viet Nam. These NDCs were covered in the <a href="#">first edition of the NDC Highlights</a>.</p> <p><b>52 total NDC updates submitted by February 2021*</b> (includes the 15 submitted by October).</p> <p><i>This edition of the NDC Highlights focuses on 9 of the G20 countries' NDCs submitted so far: European Union (EU), United Kingdom (UK), Japan**, Australia, South Korea, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, and Russia.</i></p> <p><i>*Considering the EU NDC as one submission for 27 Member States. **Japan's 2020 NDC is a resubmission of their 2015 NDC.</i></p>	<p>By February 2021, <b>38 developed</b> (counting in the 27 countries of the EU bloc), <b>and 40 developing countries had submitted updated NDCs.</b></p>
Mitigation		
<p>Strengthened mitigation targets*</p> <p><i>*We do not evaluate alignment to a 1.5°C trajectory under this criterion.</i></p>	<p>3 NDCs: UK, EU, Argentina.</p>	<p>The UK, EU and Argentina strengthened their mitigation targets.</p> <p>Japan, Australia and South Korea maintained the same target of their first NDCs. Although South Korea's updated target was converted into an absolute emissions reduction target - that is more predictable than the previous BAU emissions projection target - the previous targeted emissions level by 2030 is the same.</p>

		Brazil, Mexico and Russia did not strengthen their mitigation targets. Brazil and Mexico presented revised baselines in their NDC updates, which could potentially increase emissions.
An economy-wide absolute 2030 target	9 NDCs: EU, UK, Japan, Australia, South Korea, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Russia.	All G20 countries that presented NDCs so far have economy-wide targets.
A 2021-2030 carbon budget aligned to 1.5°C	4 NDCs presented carbon budgets: UK, Argentina, Australia, South Korea. But, according to the Climate Action Tracker (CAT), they are not aligned to a 1.5°C trajectory.	The UK's 4th carbon budget, covering the 2023- 2027 period was set for a 2°C trajectory. The UK needs to update policy and investment for a pathway consistent with 1.5°C alignment.  Australia and South Korea presented a carbon budget in their 2020 NDCs for 2030. However, their respective 2030 targets are not aligned with 1.5°C.
NDC targets aligned to a 2050 or earlier Net Zero Long-term Strategy	2 NDCs: EU, South Korea.	The EU mentions a net zero target by 2050; and South Korea submitted its "2050 Carbon Neutral Strategy Towards a Sustainable and Green Society" in December 2020, in parallel with its updated NDC.  Russia mentions a commitment to net zero in national legislation.  Argentina, Australia and the UK are advancing on their Long-Term Strategies (LTS) and should have 2050 Net-Zero targets announced by the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26).  Brazil's updated NDC mentions an "indicative" long-term objective of reaching climate neutrality in 2060, which could be changed to 2050 depending on the proper functioning of market mechanisms under the Paris Agreement.
<b>Adaptation</b>		
Clear adaptation objectives	4 NDCs: Argentina, South Korea, Mexico, Russia.	Argentina presents an Adaptation Section in its updated NDC, considered as its Second Adaptation Communication.  South Korea's NDC establishes priority sectors and developments in adaptation planning at national and subnational level. Its' National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2021-2025) was launched in 2020.  Mexico's NDC presents an adaptation component that incorporates cross-cutting elements such as nature-based solutions and Community-Based Adaptation approaches; Ecosystem-Based Adaptation; as well as Disaster Risk Reduction-based Adaptation.

		<p>Russia's NDC mentions its current National Action Plan (2019-2022), which establishes priority measures to adapt key sectors and regions and the preparation of its second stage (2022-2025).</p> <p>The updated EU NDC informs that, as part of the European Green Deal, a new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change will be presented by the European Commission in 2021/Q1.</p> <p>The UK submitted its Adaptation Communication to the UNFCCC in parallel with its NDC in December 2020.</p> <p>Australia is committed to developing an Adaptation Communication ahead of COP26 on ongoing action and progress to the UNFCCC.</p> <p>Brazil no longer mentions its Adaptation Plan in their NDC as they did in 2015.</p>
<b>Finance</b>		
Finance commitments and needs	1 NDC: the UK.	<p>Overall, developed countries do not present information on international support to developing countries for the implementation of their NDCs.</p> <p>The UK is an exception, as it submitted its <a href="#">Finance Biennial Communication</a> in December 2020.</p> <p>The EU mentions that all EU expenditure should be consistent with Paris Agreement objectives and that a Just Transition Fund will be created but does not mention any amounts.</p> <p>South Korea's updated NDC mentions international programs to support developing countries' capacity-building for adaptation and Australia mentions national financial commitments to achieve a low carbon economy, without further details.</p> <p>Argentina is in the process of formulating a Climate Finance Strategy.</p> <p>Brazil, Mexico and Russia express the interest in advancing and implementing Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.</p>
Clear conditional targets	2 NDCs present conditional targets: Brazil, Mexico.	<p>Brazil's targets seem to have changed from fully unconditional in the previous NDC to conditional to international support and the proper functioning of market mechanisms.</p> <p>Argentina has moved from conditional to unconditional targets but welcomes the support of developed countries in the fulfilment of its national ambition. An initial analysis</p>

		of needs and their priority order has been included in the updated NDC.
Moving from conditional to unconditional targets	1 NDC: Argentina	Argentina moved from conditional to unconditional targets.
<b>Fostering Systemic Change</b>		
Increased sectoral coverage	1 NDC: Mexico	Mexico presented increased sectoral coverage in its updated NDC, including the Transportation and Residential and Commercial sectors.
Quantitative Sectoral targets	4 NDCs: Japan, Australia, South Korea, EU.	Japan, Australia, South Korea, and the EU present quantitative sectoral targets in their 2020 NDCs.
Key structural sectors included	5 NDCs: UK, Mexico, Russia, Argentina and South Korea	Countries mostly address structural sectors such as health, education, training, and research in their NDCs. Other sectors mentioned are public and social awareness, access to information and citizen participation, innovation, science and technology; environmental education; energy security and food security.
Social and just transition policies	3 countries mention social and Just Transition policies: UK, EU and Argentina.	<p>The UK's updated NDC mentions that its upcoming Net Zero Strategy will focus on new growth and employment opportunities across the UK.</p> <p>The EU's NDC commits to a Just Transition Mechanism and a Just Transition Fund of 17.5 Billion EUR (2021 - 2027) has been created. Regarding social issues, the NDC is prepared in the context of the EU's commitment to gender equality and cross-cutting priorities, as articulated in commitments such as: 1) the European Pact on Gender Equality; 2) the commitment to create and maximise synergies between the social, environmental, and economic dimensions of sustainable development; 3) the EU's support for adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP); 4) integrating the dimensions of human rights and gender equality by Member States into their national plans, strategies under the EU Energy Union Governance Regulation.</p> <p>Argentina's updated NDC contemplates social issues as its guiding principles, with a special focus on just transition. Among the 15 principles that guide the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluating of all national adaptation and mitigation actions are Human rights; Just transition; Equity; Gender; and Interculturality. Work and</p>

		<p>Just Transition are also an element of the country's Vision 2030 presented in the NDC.</p> <p>Brazil's NDC generically mentions women, indigenous peoples and social policies. Mexico's NDC presents a strong social component of human rights, including gender considerations as well as a recognition of the traditional knowledge of indigenous communities.</p>
Cross-sectoral approaches	8 NDCs present cross-sectoral approaches: UK, EU, Mexico, Russia, Argentina, Japan, Australia, and South Korea.	The main cross-sectoral approaches mentioned are decarbonization pathways, development of carbon markets and taxes, as well as co-benefits between adaptation and mitigation actions.
<b>Inclusiveness &amp; Participation</b>		
Inclusive process to invite inputs from institutions and citizens in the NDC design		<p>Japan and Brazil have not conducted participatory processes to inform their NDC updates. Although Brazil's updated NDC mentions institutional arrangements for civil society participation, in practice, they were not used.</p> <p>Australia and Russia did not mention inclusive processes to inform the NDC design.</p> <p>Although the UK mentions engagement with civil society, there has been little real interaction on the detail of the NDC and related documents.</p> <p>The EU's NDC mentions that the enhanced mitigation target is based on an extensive impact assessment, as well as stakeholder input, collected via public consultation.</p> <p>South Korea's NDC mentions that the country hosted a domestic Talanoa Dialogue in 2018, which provided an opportunity to collect opinions from governments, private sector, academia, civil society and the youth. The collected views have served as a reference to this updated NDC.</p> <p>Mexico conducted an online consultation process about the mitigation and adaptation components of the updated NDC.</p> <p>Argentina's NDC is the result of the joint work of 15 working groups of the national public administration, roundtables of federal articulation and meetings with different sectors of society, which counted on the coordination of the National Cabinet of Climate Change (GNCC).</p>
Disclosure of information	1 NDC: Mexico	G20 countries should enhance disclosure of information and provide details of public consultations with civil society and non-state actors.

Reporting back on process		No G20 country mentioned to what extent the final version of their NDCs incorporated the feedback received from stakeholders through consultation processes. Countries should prioritize putting in place effective mechanisms to report back on the contributions received.
Participatory Climate Governance structures	7 NDCs: UK, EU, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, South Korea, Australia.	<p>The UK, EU, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, South Korea, and Australia provide information about participatory climate governance structures in their updated NDCs; Russia and Japan do not address the issue.</p> <p>The EU's NDC mentions EU Regulations that provide multi-level public participation as well as public consultations to be held by Member States in the preparation of the integrated national energy and climate plans.</p> <p>Mexico mentions its National Climate Change System as the permanent mechanism for consultation, communication, collaboration and coordination on national climate policy.</p> <p>Argentina's NDC mentions the National Climate Change Cabinet as the national governance body for adaptation and mitigation policies. The Cabinet includes representatives of the Federal and subnational governments, civil society, academia, youth, social movements, indigenous communities, legislative, executive and judiciary branches, a virtual Mechanism for Citizen Participation and an Advisory Council with private sector representatives.</p> <p>South Korea's NDC presents a government-wide scientific and quantitative system for implementation, reinforcing the social participation through the Post-2020 Public-Private Joint Commission, which includes civil society and industries.</p> <p>Australia's NDC mentions that a Technology Investment Advisory Council comprising experts from business, investment and the research community will advise the development of annual Low Emissions Technology Statements, which will be tabled in Australia's Federal Parliament.</p>
<b>Contribution to Sustainable Development</b>		
Linkages with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	3 NDCs: UK, Mexico, Argentina	<p>UK's NDC mentions that the country is committed to the implementation of the SDGs and that more information about its approach can be found in the country's Voluntary National Review (2019).</p> <p>Mexico's NDC has linkages with SDGs under the adaptation component, connecting each of the lines of action to specific SDGs. In the mitigation component, economic activities are also connected to SDGs.</p>

		Argentina has as one of the 15 guiding principles for the NDC the implementation the UN's 2030 Agenda and SDGs.
Measurable nature-based solutions	<p>8 NDCs mention nature-based solutions:</p> <p>Only 3 provide measurable indicators: Japan, Mexico, UK.</p> <p>5 NDCs mention nature-based solutions without indicators: Brazil, Russia, Argentina, EU, South Korea.</p>	<p>Japan mentions a LULUCF target for mitigation with no further clarity on social and biodiversity benefits.</p> <p>Mexico's updated NDC commits to reaching net-zero deforestation rate by 2030.</p> <p>The UK's NDC mentions plans to address the ocean and marine environment and terrestrial biodiversity. Nature-based solutions are explicitly mentioned in the Adaptation Communication and the Prime Minister's 10 Point Plan (2020) mentions the planting of 30,000 ha of trees each year. In January 2021, the UK pledged to <u>commit at least £3 billion</u> of its existing £11.6 billion international climate finance budget to "climate change solutions that protect and restore nature and biodiversity"</p> <p>Brazil's NDC update does not present quantifiable and measurable nature-based solutions in its 2020 NDC, as it did in 2015. This is a major gap, considering the rising deforestation rates and the importance of Brazil as a megadiverse country.</p>

## Tracking Progress

A transparent national system to track implementation	6 NDCs address existing systems: EU, UK, Mexico, Argentina, Australia and South Korea.	<p>The EU's 2020 NDC advances by presenting governance arrangements and planning and monitoring mechanisms with targets and indicators.</p> <p>The UK mentions its institutional arrangements and regulations that can be considered as a fairly transparent national system to track implementation.</p> <p>Mexico presents a general commitment to strengthening M&amp;E and MRV systems, without further details.</p> <p>Argentina commits to the continued improvement of the National Climate Change Information System and presents plans for an M&amp;E system focused on adaptation.</p> <p>Australia's system of National Greenhouse Accounts reports annually the national emissions disaggregated to the sub-national level and by industry in a timely and transparent manner.</p> <p>South Korea mentions a system for monitoring the implemented targets. The 2020 NDC progresses by presenting more information on governance and transparency.</p>
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