



Mexico: Long Way to Go

On December 29, 2020, Mexico submitted its Updated NDC to the UNFCCC.

The Mexican NDC does not enhance ambition of mitigation targets, which remain unchanged. According to Climate Action Tracker's recent analysis, the BAU associated with these targets has been revised upwards in the NDC update, with a total emissions level in 2030 higher than that reported in the 2016 NDC. Given the NDC is defined as a percentage reduction below BAU projections, a higher emissions level in 2030 effectively reduces the country's mitigation ambition, even if the reduction targets remain unchanged. The updated NDC is also less transparent than the original 2016 submission, which makes assessing the level of ambition more difficult. More transparency would also be desirable on how the consultation process inputs were incorporated in the NDC. However, Mexico has advanced on the Adaptation component in considering nature-based solutions and linkages with SDGs.

The NDC unfortunately does not reflect any commitment on phasing out fossil fuels and investing in renewable energy, a signal that contrasts with Mexico's previous protagonism in the climate agenda with the first climate law in a developing country in 2012 and the Energy Transition Law of 2015. Considering that Mexico has been ranked between the 11-13th global GHG emitter and is the second Latin American economy country, our analysis concludes that the updated NDC has **a Long Way to Go** to become the NDC We Want.

Advances

Adaptation: The updated NDC presents a robust adaptation component that incorporates a focus on nature, social considerations and synergies with mitigation and SDGs. It is organized in 5 axes, each focusing on a target: human population, productive systems, biodiversity and ecosystem services, water resources, and infrastructure.

Nature-based Solutions (NbS): Mexico has prioritized Nature-based Solutions in the context of climate change since its 2015 NDC, mostly connected to adaptation. The updated one mentions Nature-based Solutions (NBS), Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) approaches and Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EBA) as cross-cutting elements for Adaptation. NbS are listed under the Adaptation axis of CONSERVATION, RESTORATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES and include, among others, reaching a zero-net deforestation rate by 2030; strengthening environmental policy instruments; conservation, restoration and increasing the resilience of ecosystems.

Linkages with SDGs: Under the adaptation component, the NDC connects each of the lines of action to specific SDGs. Economic activities under the mitigation section are also connected to SDGs.

Public participation: The NDC informs of consultations with government bodies at various levels, as well as state governments, scholars, social organizations, the private sector, and the public. It underlines the participation of youth. The Government of Mexico also conducted an online consultation process about the mitigation and adaptation components of the NDC. The survey included questions aimed at prioritizing the proposed action lines and encouraged suggesting additional action lines.

Gaps

Level of Ambition: The main gap of Mexico's NDC is that the updated NDC does not enhance the country's ambition. Art. 4.3 of the Paris Agreement states that "each Party's successive nationally determined contribution will represent a progression beyond the Party's then current nationally determined contribution and reflect its highest possible ambition", and that was not the case of the updated NDC. The targets of reducing 22% of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and 51% of black carbon emissions by 2030 compared to business-as-usual (BAU) and a conditional reduction of up to 36% of GHG emissions and 70% of black carbon emissions by 2030 are the same as the 2015 NDC, while the BAU has been revised upwards. The peaking year of 2026 is no longer mentioned in the updated NDC.

Finance: No details on finance commitments, such as the amount committed to climate change in the national budget or a figure for international conditional finance, are provided in the update.

Public Participation. It is not clear how or to what extent the results of this consultation process were incorporated into the final version of the NDC.

A Transparent system to track implementation: Mexico presents in the updated NDC a general commitment to strengthening M&E and MRV systems, without any timelines or further details.



For more information

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