



MENA Regional Leadership: Building a Lasting Legacy Towards COP27 and Beyond Through Ambitious NDCs

UNFCCC's Mena Regional Climate Week
March 29, 2022

The MENA Region

- The Middle-East and North Africa (MENA) is a diverse region. There is not a clear definition of which countries are part of it. The number varies from 19 to 24.
- UN agencies, such as the **World Bank, IMF and FAO**, for example, have their own criteria. For the purpose of this presentation, we consider **OECD** standards, which includes the following countries (19):
 - Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen



MENA's Regional Climate Week

- MENA's Climate Week gives the region a chance to reflect on challenges and opportunities to enhance climate ambition beyond NDCs
- It is expected that the week stimulates collaboration to a **global pandemic recovery** by **addressing social inequalities** and generating **opportunities to investments** in economic development
- Opportunity for governments, private sector leaders, civil society and financial institutions to enhance climate action and **explore positive solutions** for the region
- With COP27 in Egypt, 2022 is a crucial year for the MENA region to explore their role in **closing the ambition gap** on mitigation and adaptation to ensure countries are collectively on track for 1.5°C; and in closing the credibility gap, ensuring long and short term pledges and action are also in line



WWF CHECKLIST FOR THE NDCs WE WANT

5 areas and 20 criteria

I. AMBITION



MITIGATION

- 1 Strengthened mitigation targets
- 2 An economy-wide absolute 2030 target
- 3 A 2021-2030 carbon budget aligned to 1.5°C
- 4 NDC targets aligned to a 2050 or earlier Net-Zero Long-Term Strategy



ADAPTATION

- 5 Clear adaptation objectives



FINANCE

- 6 Finance Commitments
- 7 Clear conditional targets
- 8 Moving from conditional to unconditional targets

II. FOSTERING SYSTEMIC CHANGE



- 9 Increased sectoral coverage
- 10 Quantitative sectoral targets
- 11 Key structural sectors included
- 12 Social and Just Transition Policies
- 13 Cross-sectoral approaches

panda.org/ndcs

III. INCLUSIVENESS AND PARTICIPATION



- 14 Inclusive process to invite inputs from institutions and citizens in the NDC design
- 15 Disclosure of information
- 16 Reporting back on process
- 17 Participatory climate governance structures

IV. CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



- 18 Linkages with SDGs
- 19 Measurable Nature-based Solutions

V. TRACKING PROGRESS



- 20 A transparent national system to track implementation

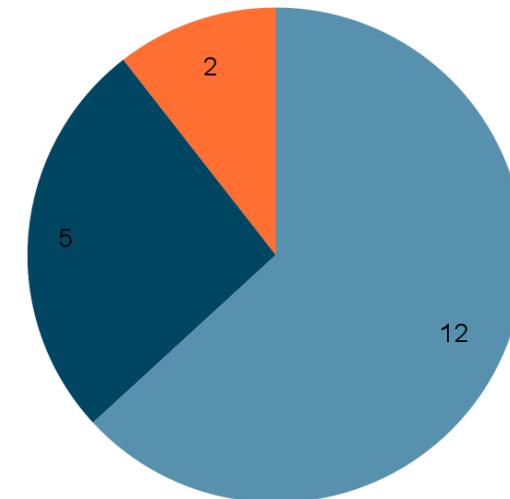


General information about NDCs in the region

- Among all 19 MENA countries, **Libya** and **Yemen** (2) have not submitted any NDC so far
- **Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia** and **United Arab Emirates** (12) submitted First and Updated NDCs
- Within those who have a First NDC, **Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq*** and **Syria** (5) have not yet submitted updated NDCs
- ***Iraq** submitted its First NDC in 2021, available only in Arabic. **Oman's** First NDC (2019) is also in Arabic, but the updated submission (2021) is in English
- **Mauritania** (both NDCs), **Morocco** (updated NDC, 2021) and **Tunisia** (First NDC, 2017) are in French

NDCs distribution in the region

Submitted first and updated NDCs Submitted only first NDC No NDC submitted



MENA NDCs in a nutshell

- 11 Parties provide **general quantitative emission reduction targets** in their updated NDCs
- Bahrain is the only Party that has not provided quantitative targets in its updated NDC
- All MENA Parties that updated their NDCs (12) have an **adaptation component** within their NDCs
- Considering the specificities of the region, 11 Parties particularly mention **water security** issues in their updated NDCs

| Parties that present quantitative targets in their updated NDCs (11/12) | Parties that do not present quantitative targets in their updated NDCs (1/12) | Parties that mention water security issues in updated NDCs (11/12) | Parties that do not mention water security issues in updated NDCs (1/12) |
|--|---|---|--|
| Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates | Bahrain | Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates | Kuwait |



MENA NDCs and Nature-based Solutions (NbS)

WWF's report *NDCs: A Force for Nature*

- In its fourth edition (November 2021), it assesses the integration of NbS in the enhanced NDCs published in the run-up to COP26
- Out of the 96 NDCs that include NbS for mitigation, 69 have quantified these as numerical targets, mostly for the forest sector. However, there has been a significant increase in inclusion of wetlands, mangroves and oceans.
- More than three times as many NDCs refer to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) or other global processes.
- The number of NDCs explicitly referring to Indigenous peoples and other local communities grew by 88%.

MENA NDCs and Nature-based Solutions (NbS)

MENA NDCs:

- **Lebanon:** added numerical mitigations targets, mentions several ecosystems; yet there are no concrete targets for afforestation/reforestation in the updated NDC. The country is also a reference of strategies in the forest sector
- **United Arab Emirates:** added numerical mitigations targets as well, including numerical targets for planting mangroves and protecting blue carbon areas. It also includes the protection of coral reefs
- **Jordan:** strong references to nature and nature-based ecosystems. Integrated climate considerations into its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, which has itself been aligned with the Aichi goals

MENA NDCs and Nature-based Solutions (NbS)

MENA NDCs:

- **Mauritania:** the updated NDC raises its targets for AFOLU emissions reductions, both in forestry and agriculture. Adaptation projects include a wide range of ecosystem-based and community-based approaches. Synergies with global processes such as UNCCD are mentioned with regard to adaptation plans and the NDC details national policies to implement these plans.
- **Morocco:** in its updated NDC, Morocco's NbS for mitigation focuses on forests and its adaptation component includes measures for protecting marine ecosystems, restoring dunes, and preventing urban heat islands through nature-based solutions.
- **Tunisia:** the updated NDC extensively incorporates NbS in its adaptation component, through the protection and restoration of ecosystems. These plans are connected to SDG outcomes and to the process under the CBD. Under mitigation actions, the NDC also includes sustainable forest management and payment for ecosystem services.

Take-away messages

- All (12) updated NDCs include **Adaptation; a key priority for the region.**
- Almost all of the MENA countries (11/12) submitted quantitative targets in their updated NDCs
- There is an opportunity to influence Parties to commit to quantifiable targets, including some related to NbS not only in their NDCs, but also within national climate policy implementation plans
- Within the region, Lebanon, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates are pointed as positive examples of integration of NbS in NDCs. All of them have improved NbS integration in their updated NDCs. Among these, Jordan is the best reference in NbS
- There are direct and indirect positive outcomes from including NbS in NDCs, such as highlighting the capacity of improved techniques in agriculture and forestry that can deliver water security and other benefits. However, water security related NbS, a key issue for the region, have not been prominent in MENA NDCs