



Climate Action Network

G20 Issue Brief – Long-term Strategies

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Climate Action Network International (CAN) is the world's largest network of civil society organizations working together to promote government action to address the climate crisis, with more than 1100 members in over 120 countries. www.climatenetwork.org

Context:

The Paris Agreement calls for countries to formulate long-term low-GHG emission development strategies, in line with pursuing efforts to limiting global temperature increase to 1.5°C. With the 2016 adoption of Agenda 2030, countries are also beginning to implement policies to fulfil the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Long-term strategies create a framework within which the implications of short-to-medium-term decisions that impact both greenhouse gas emission trajectories and development pathways can be coherently planned and adjusted where necessary. Developing and implementing these strategies ensures alignment with the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement, in a way that fosters increased prosperity for citizens, reduces the risk of locking-in unsustainable and high-emission infrastructure, and will help to avoid stranded high-carbon assets.

Careful long-term planning also **provides an opportunity to maximize socio-economic benefits, such as cleaner air and water, improved security for jobs and energy access, and better health.** If well done, these strategies can identify such opportunities, as well as challenges, open a space for democratic consultation on these implications, and secure a just transition for workers and communities which depend today on a fossil-based economy.

Economically ambitious, inclusive and comprehensive strategies, in line with the SDGs and the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement, would naturally have the following implications:

- **Shifting public policy and finance to promote fulfilment of the goals of the Paris Agreement:** Ambitious strategies would highlight the need for urgent, targeted actions on fossil fuel subsidy reform, GHG pricing, and governmental legislation to upscale financial and political support for renewable energy and energy efficiency. Public finance can strongly incentivize enhanced private finance for global decarbonization of the energy sector in the next three decades.
- **Positioning climate-resilient and sustainable infrastructure as key to inclusive, sustainable growth:** Infrastructure is key to the delivery of SDGs and inclusive growth, yet natural resource limits and climate impacts such as extreme weather events pose increasing risks to conventional infrastructure models. Within a long-term strategy, sustainability and infrastructure can be addressed within the same framework to ensure the synergies between climate and development aims are coherently and effectively addressed.

CAN calls on all G20 countries to:

- **Develop and communicate their *initial* long-term strategies by mid-2018** to feed into the assessment of global progress towards the goals of the Paris Agreement at COP 24 of the UNFCCC. Each strategy should provide an ambitious signal to the world on the direction countries are moving in to decarbonize their societies, and should be iterated on and improved over time.
- **Create a permanent space within G20 discussions for dialogue and exchange on long-term strategies** in order to increase transparency, and encourage collaboration and knowledge sharing.