



Climate Action Network

Guidelines for NDCs 3.0: Delivering on the GST outcome and beyond

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Climate Action Network (CAN) is a global network of more than 1,900 civil society organisations in over 130 countries driving collective and sustainable action to fight the climate crisis and to achieve social and racial justice.

Contents

Introduction: our understanding of NDCs	2
Key pillars of NDCs and corresponding elements	3
▶ Responding to the GST outcomes and beyond	3
Economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets	3
Sectoral objectives	4
Transparency & tracking progress	6
▶ Reflecting equity through Fair Shares	6
▶ Solidarity and Justice	7
Adaptation and Loss & Damage	7
Just transition	7
Addressing development challenges & co-benefits, SDGs	8
A rights-based approach	8
Inclusiveness and participation	9
▶ Adequate finance to respond to needs	9
Annex and further references	11

CAN calls on countries to respond to the climate crisis through urgently implementing the GST outcomes and reflecting equity through fair shares, climate justice and adequate finance in their enhanced NDCs.

Introduction: our understanding of NDCs

NDCs are the centerpiece of the Paris Agreement ambition cycle, according to which they should be presented every five years and reflect the **highest possible level of ambition**. Taking into account **every country's fair share** - they should address all goals defined in Article 2 of the Paris Agreement and define a range of measures which are mutually reinforcing to reach the long term goals on temperature, resilience, means of implementation and cross-cutting measures (CAN, 2020).

All **NDCs, especially from developed and G20 countries, have to deliver on mitigation targets**: In this round of NDCs, it's imperative that GHG emissions reductions amount collectively to 43% by 2030 and 60% by 2035 for the world to stand a chance to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees, with developed countries taking the lead with higher ambition and stronger targets.

NDCs have to implement the outcomes of the Global Stocktake (GST): NDCs should be informed by the GST and therefore are the key tool to implement its findings and outcomes. For example, they have to **concretize the transitioning away from fossil fuels** and their contribution towards a global tripling of renewable energy capacity as well as the increase in energy efficiency and deliver on nature.

NDCs are comprehensive climate action plans: Although mitigation targets are a key element of NDCs, especially for big emitters, for CAN they are more than this. **NDCs have to capture the wider purpose of policies and plans that must steer the transformation of our societies with climate safe, just, equitable and sustainable pathways. They can also encompass adaptation and loss and damage measures and should also address climate finance.** Moreover, the mitigation efforts must be clear, transparent and understandable in terms of the requirements set out in Annex I to decision 4/CMA.1. NDCs also need to be seen in the strategic longer-term context of long-term strategies (LTS) that are commensurate with near zero global gross emissions by 2050 and build resilience to the anticipated threats posed by the changing climate. NDCs should be the building blocks towards achieving this strategic vision for a country's 2050 social, environmental and economic development.

It's fair to say that since the second round of NDCs, these climate plans are increasingly **becoming the main planning instrument for tackling climate change at the national level**, despite an evident implementation gap. The NDC Synthesis Report of November 2023 confirms this vision. Of the NDCs submitted by September 2023, 80% present economy-wide targets; 81% have an adaptation component; 46% address adaptation and mitigation co-benefits. Many reports from Civil Society and other organizations have assessed how NDCs have incorporated the aspects of:

- **Health**: As of December 2019, 70% of NDCs submitted (129 out of 184) included health considerations (WHO, 2019)
- **Nature**: Some 92% of the updated climate pledges (Nationally Determined Contributions or NDCs) assessed in the study include ecosystem-based approaches and/or nature-based solutions which harness the power of nature, biodiversity and ecosystems to reduce emissions and adapt to climate impacts (WWF, 2021)

- **Human rights:** An increasing number of Parties have included human rights in their NDCs. Only 24 States explicitly referenced human rights in their INDCs submitted prior COP21, and 60 States had done so in updated NDCs as of November 2022 (CIEL and OHCHR, 2022). However, the majority of NDCs provide little to no information about how human rights inform the planning, content and implementation of the NDC. (DICARP & IDA, 2022).
- **Indigenous Peoples:** NDCs with references related to Indigenous Peoples are increasing (Carmona et al., 2023)
- **Gender:** Out of 190 NDCs analyzed, 64 include a reference to women or gender. Women or gender were most commonly mentioned in relation to adaptation (27 countries), followed by mitigation (12 countries) (Women and Gender Constituency, 2021)
- **Just Transition:** The number of NDCs that explicitly mention “just transition” is low but growing. It jumped from 17% (33 NDCs covering 59 countries) in 2022 to 23% (45 NDCs covering 71 countries) in 2023 (WRI, 2023)

Key pillars of NDCs and corresponding elements

► Responding to the GST outcomes and beyond

NDCs shall act as drivers to close the 1.5°C gap in this critical decade responding to the GST outcomes and science. While Parties have more to do to develop a common understanding of some text within the GST outcome, CAN notes the extensive support already provided through the science-informed policy recommendations provided through the IPCC 6th Assessment Report, and the technical phase of the GST. The clear underlying message from all sides is the rapidly closing window for ambition to get back on track in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement, and to secure a livable future for all. The need for countries to avoid any delays or the necessary levels of ambition by taking on these guidelines as they respond to the GST outcome through NDCs cannot be overstated.

Economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets

NDCs should:

Reflect the UNSG’s Acceleration Agenda¹:

- All new NDCs of at least developed and G20 countries shall include **economy-wide absolute targets**, clearly stating the assumptions and methodological approach.
 - CAN recommends that NDCs also inform to what extent this economy wide target is reached by reductions, removals or offsetting (buying external credits)
- All new NDCs must include enhanced 2030 targets, as well as 2035 targets aligned with 1.5° C trajectories suggested by the IPCC for 2035, in line with ensuring that emissions reductions amount collectively to 43% by 2030 and 60% by 2035 relative to 2019 levels, with developed countries taking the lead with higher ambition and stronger targets². Long Term Strategies should then be aligned.
- Speed up decarbonization of high-emitting sectors like shipping, aviation, steel, cement, agriculture and food systems, aluminum, and defense.

¹ Find here the UNSG Acceleration Agenda:

https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/un_sgs_acceleration_agenda.pdf

² As an example, CAN Europe recommends a reduction of at least 65% of the European Union greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 (compared to 1990) and climate neutrality by 2040:

<https://caneurope.org/content/uploads/2023/06/2024.02.02-Updated-Position-Paper-on-EU-climate-targets-and-equitable-GHG-budget.pdf>

Close the 2030 gap by upscaling existing cost-effective, socially and environmentally safe mitigation options³:

- All Parties should explicitly address how cost-effective technologies addressed in AR6⁴ will be rolled out in new NDCs, and strengthen 2030 ambition to reflect this.
- Developed countries should go well beyond national implementation by committing to significantly enhanced public climate finance supporting poorer countries on their Just Transition pathway.
- All Parties should provide grounds for claiming to submit fair and more ambitious NDCs, including assessing their progression compared to the previous NDC.

Sectoral objectives

Transitioning away from Fossil Fuels and towards 100% and just renewable energy systems

NDCs should include:

- Policies and measures to **achieve the global goal of doubling annual energy efficiency** improvements by 2030.
- **Sufficiency measures** in high energy consumption countries.
- **Economy-wide phase out timelines for coal, oil and gas use** that are aligned with reaching net zero emissions by 2040 at the latest for developed countries and 2050 at the latest for developing countries.
- Policies and measures to **achieve the global goal of tripling renewable energy capacity** by 2030, with a view to moving to sustainable and human rights compliant renewable energy systems by 2050 at the latest, with developed countries achieving that goal earlier⁵.
 - Countries should include quantitative targets for 2030 as well as corresponding plans, policies and measures to achieve them in a way that puts people first and is in synergy with agreed CBD goals to halt and reverse nature loss.
 - Countries should also include plans for the development of the necessary related infrastructure (e.g. grid, storage).
 - Countries should include measures to increase the rate of annual renewable energy additions in the power sector and all end-use sectors (transport, buildings, industry) in line with 1.5°C scenarios with no to low (limited) overshoot.
- **Phasing out fossil fuels in the power sector** with substantial decline this critical decade to keep 1.5°C within reach⁶:
 - An immediate end to new fossil fuel power plants for all countries.
 - For developed countries: plans, measures and pathways to phase out coal power by 2030 at the latest and gas by 2035 at the latest.
 - For developing countries: plans, measures, pathways and financial / technological support needs to phase out coal and gas power by 2040 at the latest.
- **Plans to halt fossil fuel production:**
 - All countries should include a commitment to immediately end approval of new fossil fuel exploration, production and fossil fuel transmission infrastructure projects.
 - All countries should include fossil fuel production phase out trajectories that are aligned with 1.5°C scenarios with no to low (limited) overshoot in the context of equity, with production ending in the early 2030s for Global North producing countries and no later

³ Excluding BECCs, nuclear and geoengineering.

⁴ Listed in IPCC AR6 Synthesis Report [Figure SPM.7](#)

⁵ As per CAN Annual Policy document for COP28

⁶ Source: <https://climateactiontracker.org/publications/paris-aligned-benchmarks-power-sector/>

than 2050 for countries with the highest level of dependence on fossil fuels and lowest financial capacity.

- Global South producing countries should explore economic diversification strategies to transition away from fossil fuel dependency while increasing energy access and ensuring industrial development.
- Global North countries should scale up financial support to low income, fossil fuel dependent countries in line with fair shares.
- Policies and measures to **achieve the global objective of reducing fossil fuel related methane emissions** by 75% by 2030 (as per the IEA).
- **Quantified emission reduction efforts in the defense sector**, facilitated by Government mitigation strategies, that are consistent with the 1.5°C scenarios, reported based on GHG protocols and independently verified over time.

Aligning climate and biodiversity action (NDCs and NBSAPs) and protecting ecosystem integrity

Parties should ensure that NDCs:

- **Increase ambition** to protect and restore the integrity of land, freshwater and ocean ecosystems.
- **Integrate climate and biodiversity actions** in alignment with the goals of the CBD's Global Biodiversity Framework and National Biodiversity Strategies & Action Plans (NBSAPs).
- **Reflect a clear mitigation hierarchy** that prioritizes protecting existing ecosystem carbon stocks to avoid emissions, including primary ecosystems. This should be followed by reducing emissions and enhancing sinks through restoring ecosystems.
- **Take a rights-based approach** to commitments related to ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Minimize **reliance on land-based CO2 sequestration** such as large-scale monoculture afforestation.
- **Exclude Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS)** which can be counterproductive, especially through its negative effects on nature.

Halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation

- **Include ambitious measures** to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation and conversion of other ecosystems by 2030, including by addressing the main drivers of deforestation, such as the expansion of road infrastructure and hydrocarbon projects, and supported by **robust delivery and accountability mechanisms**.
- **Exclude the use of woody biomass from forests** for combustion for energy production to meet NDC's energy targets.

Oceans

- **Integrate ocean-based initiatives** into national climate goals aligned with the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the High Seas Treaty.
- **Exclude high risk unproven approaches** in ocean-climate action, such as carbon dioxide removal (CDR) through ocean-based geoengineering and offshore CCS.
- **Include ending overfishing** and a transition to low-impact ecosystem-based fisheries management as key to ensuring the ocean can continue its crucial role in mitigating climate change.

Food systems transformation through agroecology

- **Shift to healthy, resilient and equitable food production** through agroecology.
- **Reduce dependency on and phase out of emission-intensive chemical fertilizers.**
- **Address emissions from the livestock sector** in a just and equitable way: phasing out of factory farming while promoting agroecological approaches.
- **Reduce food loss and waste.**
- **Transitioning to healthy and sustainable diets and nutrition**, through a combination of supply-side actions and demand-side interventions.

Transparency & tracking progress

NDCs shall make explicit:

- How the party responded to each element in the GST decision.
- Which voluntary pledges and initiatives (e.g. action agenda engagement) the party adheres to and how it tracks their implementation.
- How the party is developing, monitoring and enforcing measures for national actors, such as private companies, to ensure that at the national level all actors coherently contribute to implementing the NDC's targets.
- How the national Monitoring & Verification and Reporting Systems (MVR) interacts with the NDC and the Biennial Transparency Report.

► Reflecting equity through Fair Shares

Fair shares include fair domestic emissions reductions and, for countries with higher capacity and responsibility, fair financial support. That means **all Parties** – whether they have high or low implementation capacity; high responsibility or low – should explain why they believe the contributions and actions they propose meet their fair share of the necessary global effort.

- Countries should strive to be **quantitative and accountable** and provide evidence on why their proposed efforts are fair and proportionate, when compared to their share of global capacity and responsibility.
- This explanation must **not be limited to mitigation**. The fair-shares challenge applies equally to adaptation, loss and damage, and the necessity of properly supporting a global just transition, including a fair, rapid, orderly, and equitable phase out of fossil fuel extraction and consumption.

Fair shares also imply that richer countries like the OECD/ANNEX II, with the responsibility and capabilities to do so, must lead the net zero transition with higher ambition and stronger targets. Poorer countries with less responsibility and capability shall equally revise 2030 targets aiming at the highest possible ambition level for emission reductions in light of equity and “Common but Differentiated Responsibilities & Respective Capabilities” (CBDR-RC)⁷ and achieve domestic net zero by 2050 at the latest.

Fair shares elements in NDCs

- Developed countries should include clear information on the levels of support that they are providing, and how. Developing countries' NDCs with conditionalities should provide clear information on their costs and expected results.

⁷ **The Climate Equity Reference Calculator** allows the user to define the “equity setting” that it should use to calculate a complete set of “responsibility and capacity indexes”, for all countries. This RCI can then be used to calculate fair shares of the (vanishing) carbon budget, or of another aspect of the common climate transition efforts. E.g., the support necessary to very rapidly phase out fossil fuel extraction. See: <https://calculator.climateequityreference.org/#>

- Developing countries that need financial and technical support to go beyond what they believe their fair share is should clearly state how much support – financial, technological, and institutional – would be needed for such conditional actions.

► Solidarity and Justice

At the heart of designing and implementing equitable 1.5°C aligned NDC lies the challenge or opportunity of countering existing and future pervasive growth of inequalities, precarious work, poverty and exclusion. For example, Just Transition strategies, while embracing the diversity of economic, social and environmental contexts, provide the opportunity to chart a pathway for a climate-sound, inclusive, rights-based societies and outline the way in which governments intend to make them happen while transitioning away from fossil fuels.

By building on human rights principles and standards, parties can implement ambitious, effective, and inclusive climate measures that work for everyone addressing discrimination on the basis of gender, age, ethnicity, social status, disability or other identity. The IPCC confirmed that adaptation and mitigation actions that prioritize equity, climate justice, rights-based approaches, social justice, and inclusivity, lead to more sustainable outcomes, reduce trade-offs, support transformative change and advance climate resilient development.

Impacts keep escalating (and will continue to do so at least in the near term), disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable and least responsible and capable people. Impacts are also affecting ecosystems on which life on earth depends. A new climate finance package must include new and additional resources for the Loss and Damage Fund created at the UNFCCC COP27; the doubling of resources for adaptation and funds for early warning systems. NDCs should help direct means of implementation to where it is needed, e.g. estimating support needs, and/or offering technical and financial collaboration.

Adaptation and Loss & Damage

NDCs should:

- Make evident national responses to the Global Goal on Adaptation into Adaptation targets (integrated multi sectoral targets).
- Ensure coherence with National Adaptation Plans.
- Map and assess the risk of losses and damages with a view to quantification as far as possible.
- Prepare a detailed assessment of economic and non-economic impacts of L&D and consider the secondary and tertiary effects. An example of the effective inclusion of L&D in an NDC can be found in Vanuatu's revised NDC.
- Based on the assessment, parties shall make explicit L&D measures in place or planned.
- Set out plans to enable the full implementation of the Early Warnings for All initiative.

Just transition

Parties should include at a minimum:

- An assessment (or a clear timeline for running such an assessment) of the impacts of climate action detailed in NDC and LTS, including on major macroeconomic shifts, human rights, as well as on social, labor, and environmental impacts in key territories.
- An outline of the decision-making process that incorporates social dialogue and multiple levels of consultations, included with directly impacted groups and communities.
- Social/environmental targets associated with their Just Transition approach.

- International initiatives that could scale up their Just Transition strategy, notably in support of economic diversification approaches.
- How the country party plans to invest in care work, as care work has social, environmental, and economic benefits and strengthens the infrastructure for vital universal social protections.

Addressing development challenges & co-benefits, SDGs

- How climate action detailed in the NDC contributes to eradicate poverty and to sustainable development and is aligned with SDG objectives aiming at creating co-benefits.
- How different ministries have been involved in the development of the NDC in order to ensure joint planning and realize co-benefits across different areas, including health, sustainable development, gender, youth and human rights.

A rights-based approach

It is vital that NDC design, planning and implementation follows a rights-based approach. This includes:

- **Setting ambition levels in line with human rights obligations:** NDCs must reflect the highest level of ambition possible in order to protect the enjoyment of human rights from climate harm, taking all feasible steps to limit emissions of GHGs in alignment with the 1.5°C goal, in line with the principle of CBDR-RC.
- **Designing NDCs in a gender-responsive, child-sensitive and disability-inclusive way:** mainstream gender considerations in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and reviewing of NDCs and in all sectors they cover, including through gender-responsive budgeting, and gender-disaggregated data collection, use and analysis. Ensure gender-responsive means of implementation such as access to climate finance for grassroots women’s organizations and deployment of gender-responsive technology that promotes locally owned, real solutions. Equally, include child-sensitive and disability-inclusive climate commitments, indicators, and targets in NDCs, and report about their implementation.
- **Due diligence regulations:** in line with the state duty to regulate private actors, NDCs should include references to mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence regulations, requiring companies, financial institutions, and public authorities to take meaningful action to identify, prevent, mitigate, and account for human rights abuses, environmental harm and further green-house emissions caused by their operations, subsidiaries, and value chains, including in the context of mining and minerals for renewable energy production.
- **Strengthening land rights through NDCs:** NDCs should include measures to ensure access to land and legal security of tenure for all as limited access to land and insecurity of tenure have major negative implications for climate change mitigation and adaptation, food security, gender equality and social justice,
- **Respecting, protecting and fulfilling Indigenous Peoples’ rights,** including Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) during all stages of the development and implementation of NDCs and related initiatives that may affect their rights.
- **Promoting a health-based approach,** taking into account health impacts of climate change and climate action, aiming at building resilient and sustainable health systems and realizing health co-benefits (such as in energy, agriculture, transport, etc.). See annex for more details.

Inclusiveness and participation

People have a right to have a say in how governments respond to the climate crisis and for their views to be taken into account in government plans. In order for participation to be meaningful and effective, access to information is essential. Therefore, NDCs shall:

- **Guarantee the meaningful, informed, and effective participation of all rights-holders**, including Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and youth, in the design of NDCs and throughout the implementation and monitoring of national climate commitments and related policies.
- **Commit to recognizing and protecting the rights of environmental human rights defenders** in the development and implementation of NDCs.
- Ensure that Indigenous Peoples are provided with the opportunity to meaningfully contribute to the design, planning, implementation, and monitoring of NDCs.
- Involve the **active participation and leadership of women** in all stages and all their diversity providing support for them to do so, including by strengthening the capacity of grassroots women to engage in their country's NDC.
- Contain **information on public participation** in the development of the NDC, particularly regarding young people as defined in the Actions for Climate Empowerment (ACE) Action Plan, and information on gaps in gender, youth, civil society inclusion for implementation.
- **Engage with national human rights institutions** and other national, sub-national and local bodies part of a state's human rights framework, and with National Gender & Climate Change Focal Points.

► Adequate finance to respond to needs

Adequate access to good-quality financial means is a prerequisite for enabling climate action at the speed and scale needed for charting towards 1.5°C compatible pathways:

- According to the CBDR-RC principles, developed and richer parties have to take the lead not only in implementing faster emission reduction pathways within their jurisdictions, but also in providing the needed financial resources and must demonstrate this leading role in their NDC submission. This means that:
 - Developed and rich country parties must include information on their plans to provide new and additional, public grant-based financial resources as international climate finance to assist with both conditional mitigation and adaptation commitments as well as to address loss & damage. This must be measured in grant-equivalent terms. Other Parties are encouraged to include such information.
 - Developed parties, as well as other parties in a position to do so, must include plans for shifting all finance flows to being consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development. This includes among other things, plans for phasing-out fossil fuel subsidies and how to regulate the finance sector (including banks and pensions funds) to ensure that they do not invest in fossil fuel expansion, as well as efforts toward international finance system transformation consistent with the requests of developing countries.
- For developing country NDCs to be used as investment plans, they should also include information on what finance is needed to come from what sources (public and private, domestic and external), as well as needed national and international policy changes to support access to finance.
- CAN rejects the practice of offsetting to tackle the climate crisis, which includes use of ITMOs by Parties under Article 6.2 to achieve their NDCs.⁸ New NDCs from developed Parties must prioritize

⁸ CAN (2022), CAN Position on Carbon Offsetting,

ambitious absolute domestic mitigation. In no case carbon markets finance can be counted as climate finance.

- The following information should also be considered in the development of NDCs:
 - Economic and financial costs and benefits of achieving GHG targets, non-GHG targets (such as cross cutting actions, gender, awareness raising, etc.), adaptation and L&D policies or actions.
 - Financing strategies for achieving targets or implementing specific policies or actions (e.g., mainstreaming climate into national, sectoral, and/or subnational budgets, international grants etc.).
 - Technological transfer and capacity building activities.

Annex and further references

General NDC Checklists

- https://wwfeu.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/wwf_ndcs_we_want_checklist.pdf
- https://climatepromise.undp.org/sites/default/files/research_report_document/undp-ndcsp-ga-checklist-ndc-revision-ENG.pdf

Fair Shares and Equity

- Civil Society Equity Review: <https://www.equityreview.org/>
- Climate Equity Reference Project: <https://calculator.climateequityreference.org/>
- Climate Action Tracker: <https://climateactiontracker.org/>
- NDC Equity Tracker: www.ndcequitytracker.org

Energy system transformation

- Equity in phasing out fossil fuels: <https://www.equityreview.org/extraction-equity-2023>

Food Systems

Further information on food systems:

- Countries should ensure that all affected people and stakeholders, particularly peasants, small-scale food producers, fisherfolk, forest dwellers, workers throughout food systems, trade unions, and communities whose livelihood and cultural identity rely on land, forests and agriculture have a central role in designing measures that impact on their lives and rights. Countries must ensure participatory approaches at all levels in order to address the structural inequities and power relations in food systems. A specific human rights assessment of each proposed measure related to the transition should be carried out, and human rights-compliant indicators, targets and benchmarks should be set.
- Currently, only three percent of public climate finance goes to agriculture, there is a significant need for NDCs to include provisions to address this finance gap. It is critical to increase the quantity, quality, and equitable access to climate finance supporting the transformation towards sustainable, climate-resilient, healthy, and equitable food systems, recognizing their significant role for climate adaptation and mitigation. A significant share of that finance should be accessible by smallholder farmers.

Further resources on food systems in NDCs:

- <https://foodforwardndcs.panda.org/>
- <https://ndcpartnership.org/knowledge-portal/climate-toolbox/cop28-agriculture-food-and-climate-national-action-toolkit>
- https://wwfint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/unlocking_and_scaling_climate_solutions_in_food_systems__wwf_analysis_of_ndcs_2022.pdf

Loss & Damage

Further explanation on the suggested procedure for including L&D in NDCs:

- By defining L&D within national contexts, Developing countries can tailor their NDCs to reflect the unique challenges they face, thus enabling a more targeted approach to climate action and resource allocation in an increasingly volatile system of cascading and compounding impacts. The

framing of L&D can relay the narrative of mitigation/adaptation action and all the pieces in between as a river that flows to the sea, i.e. loss and damage in the context of mitigation and adaptation action conveys the idea of a continuous and interconnected journey.

- Additionally, presenting a multidimensional risk and vulnerability assessment within NDCs is crucial. This approach not only captures the complex nature of L&D but also underscores the necessity for financial and technical support to manage these risks. A nuanced vulnerability and risk assessment can illustrate how climate change exacerbates existing social, environmental, and economic challenges, thereby making a compelling case for the need for international support and the tenet that loss and damage is the third pillar of climate action and should therefore be resourced adequately.
- Moreover, by detailing the specific responses and support required for managing L&D, including existing adaptation measures and the gaps in current strategies, developing countries can effectively communicate their needs and priorities. This will not only facilitate targeted assistance but also promote collaborative efforts to enhance resilience and adaptive capacity at both local and national levels.
- An example of the effective inclusion of L&D in an NDC can be found in Vanuatu's revised NDC. The following diagram in the WWF publication illustrates the steps towards the inclusion of L&D within NDCs:

https://wwfint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/wwf_pa_anchoring_loss_and_damage_in_ndcs_report.pdf

Health

The full reflection of health in NDCs should include:

- NDCs shall take into account health impacts of climate change and climate action, aiming at building resilient and sustainable health systems and realizing health co-benefits (such as in energy, agriculture, transport etc). See annex for more details.
- Health impacts / health losses and damages: Recognition and monitoring of health losses and damages (for example, health impacts of extreme heat, water-borne and vector-borne disease, malnutrition, injuries and death due to extreme weather events, acute and longer term mental health impacts, undermining of sexual and reproductive health and rights), as well as direct damage to healthcare infrastructure.
- Health sector actions: Adaptation and mitigation action in the health sector, including building resilient, low-carbon and sustainable health systems and facilities, including supply chains, and adequate resources and capacity building for the healthcare workforce. WHO has published additional information on priorities for healthcare sector adaptation ([link](#), [link](#)), with a dedicated section also featured in forthcoming guidance.
- Specific targets for short lived climate forcers: Short lived climate forcers including black carbon, tropospheric ozone and HFCs, methane pose a unique threat to the climate and to human health. Including specific targets for super pollutant levels can support ambitious action for climate and health. Further detail on this issue is included in forthcoming WHO guidance.
- Health co-benefits: Recognition and quantification of health co-benefits of mitigation and adaptation actions across sectors. These include (but are not limited to):
 - Energy: Improved air quality and reduced burden of respiratory, cardiovascular, and brain diseases and cancer through a transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.
 - Food and agriculture: Food sovereignty and nutrition security through resilient food systems and access to healthy, sustainable diets.
 - Transport: Increased physical activity, reduced road traffic injuries, improved air quality, and improved mental and physical health through transport systems which are centered on electrified public transport, walking and cycling.

- Water and sanitation: Investments in sanitation and access to safe potable water reduces the spread of water-borne disease.
- Waste: proper management of fecal and other forms of waste reduces health risks including water and soil.
- Nature-based solutions: Improved mental health and reduced health impacts of heat alongside positive implications for biodiversity.
- Buildings: Energy-efficient structures that protect and promote good physical and mental health (e.g. better insulated buildings decreasing energy expenditure as well as exposure to temperature extremes); buildings resilient to extreme weather in general offer safe shelter to prevent injury and death.
- Exemplary actions are included in WHO's forthcoming guidance.
- Economic considerations: The health costs of inaction, and costs, budget and health-related returns on investment for healthcare sector or health co-benefit actions, for example the CLIMAQ-H tool and HEAT tool.
- Equity considerations: Specific attention to the unique climate-related public health needs of, and benefits of climate action to, vulnerable populations including Indigenous peoples, women, children, people with physical and mental disabilities, older people, people with non-heteronormative SOGIESC, low-income communities, migrants, and other marginalized groups are most impacted at subnational level.
- Multiple health and other development challenges (including but not limited to those related to water and nutrition insecurity) will be exacerbated by inaction on climate change or by mitigation and adaptation which do not adequately take health into account. Sustainable development priorities including physical and mental health, gender equity, poverty eradication, decent work should be recognised in the opening sections of NDCs as central considerations or "axes" of climate action, which guide the design, implementation, and monitoring of all national adaptation and mitigation actions. (This was the case in Argentina's 2020 NDC). As noted by UNDP, just transitions not only advance climate action, but also advance progress against all SDGs.
- Ministries responsible for other sustainable development priorities, including Ministries of Health, should be invited to join the NDC enhancement process, and the implementation of actions, to
 - (1) Support identification of policies which drive climate action which will also offer greatest gains across other sustainable development areas. For example, in the case of health, emissions can be reduced by investments in electric vehicles powered by renewable energy, but complementary investments in walking and cycling infrastructure additionally promote physical activity, improve mental health, reduce road traffic injuries, and avoid significant air pollution caused by vehicular brake and tyre friction. Meanwhile, in the agriculture sector, diet shifts towards more plant rich diets in high meat and dairy consuming countries can reduce emissions whilst decreasing the risk of and cost associated with cardiovascular disease, some cancers, diabetes, food-borne diseases, zoonoses and AMR.
 - (2) To enable identification of cross sectoral actions and support collaboration necessary for their implementation, such as early warning systems for health threats made possible between national health and meteorological agencies.

Further resources:

- WHO. (In Press). WHO guidance for Integrating Health into Nationally Determined Contributions and Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategies. WHO. Geneva.
- WHO. (2023). 2023 WHO review of health in nationally determined contributions and long-term strategies: health at the heart of the Paris Agreement. WHO. Geneva. Online.

- Global Climate and Health Alliance Healthy NDC Scorecard [2021](#), [2023](#) and Clean Air NDC Scorecard [2023](#).
- <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/373837/9789240081888-eng.pdf?sequence=1>

Further elements on Indigenous Peoples' rights

Indigenous Peoples are frequently at the frontline of climate change impacts. They often maintain a close connection with the natural environment and their traditional lands on which their livelihoods and cultural identity depend. Indigenous Peoples have knowledge and experience of adapting to often dramatic changes in the natural environment of their territories and play a crucial role in the conservation of biodiversity, forests and natural resources.

- **Respect, protect and fulfill Indigenous Peoples' rights** in the context of NDCs including by respecting the right to self-determination, and the rights to land, territory and resources. NDCs must consider how activities and decisions may affect Indigenous Peoples' rights, knowledge systems, practices and ways of life.
- Promote co-production of knowledge in the context of NDCs through respectful, ethical, and equitable collaboration and partnership with Indigenous Peoples and their knowledge holders.

Further resources on Human Rights

- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL): Integrating Human Rights in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs): [toolkit for practitioners](#)
- Climate Land Ambition and Rights Alliance (CLARA): the CLARA Guide to Nationally Determined Contributions: [Peoples' NDCs](#)
- International Working Group on Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA): [Recognition of Indigenous Peoples in Nationally Determined Contributions](#)
- Women and Gender Constituency (WGC): [Gender and NDCs](#)
- Sébastien Jodoin, et al., [Disability Rights in National Climate Policies: Status Report](#) (Centre for Human Rights & Legal Pluralism & International Disability Alliance, November 2022).

Inclusion and participation

The rights to access information and to public participation by people, communities and civil society in national climate planning processes are recognized in international and regional treaties and political commitments adopted at multilateral levels and ratified by states. Ensuring NDCs are driven by inclusion and participation by people, communities and civil society in national climate planning processes is also consistent with the Paris Agreement, the Paris Rulebook, and the first Global Stocktake decision.

Further resources:

- On inclusion: [Oxfam: Climate Plans for the People - Civil society and community participation in national action plans on climate change](#) (release date: March 26, 2024)
- BUND-FOE Germany with UfU: Don't bypass people Tracing NDCs to (local) climate action https://www.bund.net/fileadmin/user_upload_bund/publikationen/klimawandel/dont-bypass-people-rracing-NDC-local-climate-action-white-paper-english-bund.pdf
- On link between inclusion and ambition: UNDP. (2021). Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Global Outlook Report 2021: The State of Climate Ambition.

<https://www.undp.org/publications/nationally-determined-contributions-ndc-global-outlook-report-2021-state-climate-ambition>

- NDC Partnership toolbox: <https://ndcpartnership.org/knowledge-portal/climate-toolbox/about>
- Care About Climate on Youth and Gender Justice in NDC, created by young feminists: www.ndcequitytracker.org
- On rights to access to information, public participation and remedy: Amnesty International, [Stop Burning our Rights](#) Ch. 8

Clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs

- Methodology for assessing information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs: <https://www.climate-transparency.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Methodology-NDC-Transparency-Check--Final.pdf>
- Comparison of transparency in NDCs of different countries. Fastenaktion, Misereor, CIDSE: [NDC Transparency Meta-Study](#)

Climate policy trackers

- Climate Action Tracker: <https://climateactiontracker.org/>
- Germanwatch Climate Change Performance Index: <https://www.germanwatch.org/en/CCPI>
- Land Gap project: www.landgap.org

Information on Carbon Pricing Policies

- EnRoads: <https://www.climateinteractive.org/en-roads/>
- Tool to assess on how to combine carbon pricing with redistribution of revenue to make carbon pricing popular and address the cost of living crisis: <https://www.cpic-global.net/>
- IMF proposal on the International Carbon price Floor: <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/staff-climate-notes/Issues/2021/06/15/Proposal-for-an-International-Carbon-Price-Floor-Among-Large-Emitters-460468>