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NDC Insights Series

Issue No. 3

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About Issue No. 3:

This issue focuses on energy as a central pillar in NDCs, highlighting progress and gaps on implementation and identifying opportunities for increased ambition and accelerated action. It also spotlights Montenegro and its new NDC.

About UNDP

UNDP is the leading United Nations organization fighting to end the injustice of poverty, inequality, and climate change. Working with our broad network of experts and partners in 170 countries, we help nations to build integrated, lasting solutions for people and planet. Learn more at undp.org or follow at [@UNDP](https://twitter.com/UNDP).

About UNDP's Climate Promise

UNDP's Climate Promise is the UN system's largest portfolio of support on climate action, working with more than 140 countries and territories and directly benefiting 37 million people. This portfolio implements over US\$2.3 billion in grant financing and draws on UNDP's expertise in adaptation, mitigation, carbon markets, climate and forests, and climate strategies and policy. Visit our website at climatepromise.undp.org and follow us at [@UNDPClimate](https://twitter.com/UNDPClimate).

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CLIMATE
PROMISE



Latest trends and insights

As the world reels from record temperatures and severe climate impacts, leaders continue to reaffirm their commitment to the Paris Agreement. Many NDCs are advancing with the goal of submitting by the end of the year.



World Leaders reinforce commitment to multilateralism and the Paris Agreement

At the Leaders' session convened by the UN Secretary-General and President of Brazil on 23 April, world leaders reaffirmed their unequivocal **commitment to multilateralism and the Paris Agreement**. They also recognized the critical role of climate action in advancing sustainable development, economic growth and security.



NDC preparation is demonstrating robust and inclusive processes

As of 30 April 2025, a total of 20 parties have submitted their new NDCs for the 2025 cycle, with a new submission from Kenya, marking the only submission during the month of April. Meanwhile, many countries continue to advance robust and inclusive NDC preparation processes, with several inviting the public to provide comments on their draft NDCs, such as Moldova and Nepal.



Emerging trend: Submitted NDCs commit to energy transition

New NDCs are overwhelmingly committing to major energy transitions, aligned to guidance from the Global Stocktake, with **Small Island Developing States (SIDS) demonstrating particular leadership** on renewable energy ambition.

100%

of countries reference renewable energy and

95%

reference energy efficiency.

89%

of countries outline policy measures for expanding renewable energy and improving energy efficiency.

63%

of countries include measures in transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, and

37%

have specific targets.

84%

of countries have quantified targets to expand renewables, primarily in electricity generation and

37%

include measurable energy efficiency targets.



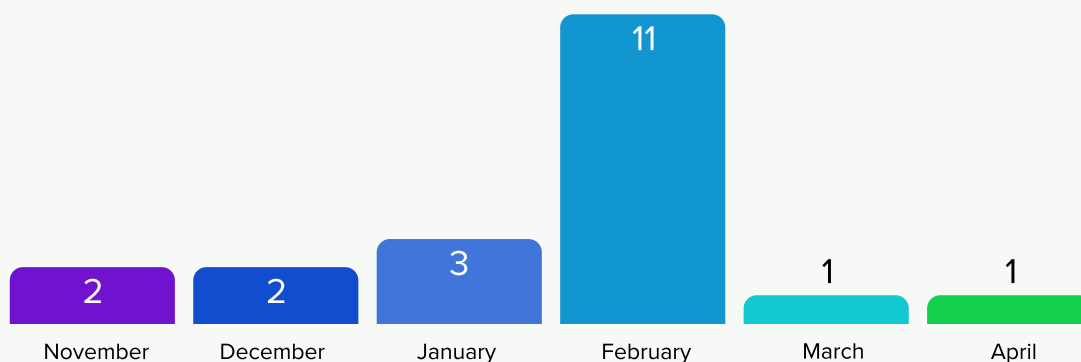
Country spotlight: Montenegro

Montenegro delivered a more comprehensive and robust NDC, committing to an absolute, economy-wide, net-domestic GHG emission reduction that aligns with the country's National Energy and Climate Plan and the European Union's standards.

NDC submission status

As of 30 April 2025, a total of 20 parties¹ have submitted their new NDCs for the 2025 cycle. A new submission from **Kenya** on 30 April, the only submission during the month, is the third new NDC to be submitted by an African country in the 2025 cycle. Many countries continue to advance robust and inclusive NDC preparation processes, including through a public comment period on draft NDCs, as was done in Nepal.² In Moldova,³ the draft third NDC went through public consultations before final validation from the National Climate Change Coordination Committee. This reflects a trend around increasingly inclusive processes, with countries recognizing the value that whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches bring to NDC preparation.

Figure 1: Number of NDC submissions, by month (November 2024 to April 2025)



The month has also seen global political momentum on climate change ambition and action continue to gather pace. The UN Secretary-General and the President of Brazil co-convened a [special session](#) of diverse world leaders from major economies and climate-vulnerable nations on 23rd April. The meeting was part of a joint mobilization effort calling for greater ambition ahead of COP30. The discussions [concluded](#) with world leaders reaffirming their commitment to multilateralism and the Paris Agreement as fundamental to tackling the climate crisis and advancing sustainable development, economic growth and security. The meeting injected a boost to the political momentum on climate amidst a complex global landscape with leaders underscoring the importance of COP30 as a pivotal milestone for increased climate ambition and action. A notable, strong signal of commitment came from the [President of China](#) who pledged to submit a new, economy-wide NDC covering all gases and sectors. This, along with signals from the European Union, the African Union, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), provides a renewed force for advancing this shared agenda.

UNDP, along with the UN system, will continue to support the UN Secretary-General in his political mobilization effort, drawing from and building on the extensive engagement and support under the Climate Promise.

Insights from Climate Promise 2025

The UN system support to countries under the Climate Promise is progressing steadily, with UN Country Teams mobilized across 116 countries. As a contribution to this UN system effort and the NDC Partnership, UNDP is providing direct support to 91 countries, with more being confirmed on a rolling basis. Most countries remain committed to a more ambitious and inclusive NDC, but key barriers persist, including financial constraints, access to technologies, institutional capacity, and the complex social and economic implications of energy transitions. Ensuring that these transitions are just, inclusive and support energy security is essential. Over 50 percent of the countries supported under the Climate Promise are undertaking stocktaking exercises to determine the progress of their current NDC implementation.⁴ Insights from these implementation stocktakes are providing crucial inputs to inform new targets and policy measures in the new NDCs.

This issue of the NDC Insight Series will examine how clean energy is emerging as a central pillar in NDCs, highlighting insights on progress and gaps from the NDC implementation stocktakes, while also identifying trends and opportunities as countries prepare new NDCs for the 2025 cycle.

During the 2020 revision cycle, 100 percent of the 132 countries supported through UNDP's Climate Promise included energy as a priority among mitigation measures.⁵ Renewable energy generation and energy efficiency improvement were the most favored emission reduction measures indicated by countries – included in 95 percent and 90 percent of NDCs, respectively. Sustainable transport and renewable-powered electricity access were also among the top policies and measures.⁶



Preliminary analysis of the status of NDC implementation to date in five African countries reveals that efforts to deliver on NDC targets have primarily focused on the energy sector. For example, **Zambia** has identified initiatives that promote investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency, notably tax exemptions on the importation of renewable energy products to enhance affordability, and the establishment of a solar center of excellence to promote the use of solar and related technologies. In **Liberia**, about 52 percent of the total funding committed for NDC implementation (US\$573.4 million) has been allocated to the energy sector, five times more than the next largest sector, agriculture. In addition, several recommendations and remaining gaps for NDC implementation have been identified for the energy sector. For example, ensuring quality data, monitoring and control systems is often cited. The **Central African Republic** points out the lack of rigorous monitoring and evaluation mechanisms that hinder the collection of indicators related to clean energy access. Similarly, **Togo** identifies the need to develop a quality assurance and control plan for the energy sector. The insights and recommendations from the stocktaking exercise are critical to inform energy-related policies and measures in new NDC as countries prepare to submit in 2025.

Emerging trend: Energy transition

The global energy transition is gaining significant momentum, marked by several encouraging trends. According to the IEA,⁷ investments in clean energy are reaching unprecedented levels, outpacing those in fossil fuels, driven by rapidly falling costs and technological advancements in solar, wind and battery storage. Renewable energy deployment is accelerating worldwide, with solar and wind capacity additions breaking records and their share in the electricity mix growing substantially. According to IRENA,⁸ in 2024 renewable power capacity reached a record 4,448 gigawatts (GW), representing over 90 percent of total power capacity expansion and a record rate of annual growth of 15.1 percent. Global investment in the clean energy transition reached a record high of \$2.1 trillion in 2024.⁹ This shift is not only crucial for mitigating climate change but also presents opportunities for enhanced **energy security** and **economic growth** through the development of **new industries and job creation**, as well as public **health benefits** from reduced levels of air pollution.

However, despite rapid acceleration in renewable energy deployment, other parts of the energy system are not shifting fast enough. Fossil fuels continue to dominate the world's energy mix, with natural gas, oil and coal accounting for over 70 percent of energy supply as of 2024. Global energy demand across all fuels and technologies grew at a faster than average rate of 2.2 percent in 2024.

While it is encouraging that renewables accounted for the largest share of this growth (38 percent), **fossil fuels—natural gas, coal and oil—still made up a combined 54 percent of the increase.**¹⁰ Relatedly, the rate of energy efficiency improvement globally is not moving fast enough. 2023 and 2024 saw a weak improvement in energy efficiency of about 1 percent in 2024 and around half of the average rate over the 2010-2019 period.¹¹





Photo Credit: UNDP Seychelles

Significant geographic disparities are also a key concern. While developed countries and some emerging economies are witnessing substantial renewable energy deployment and investment, many developing countries, particularly Least Developed Countries (LDCs), SIDS and African nations, are being left behind due to inequalities in renewable energy rollout and a limited flow of public and private investments. For example, Africa’s renewable energy investment accounted for just two percent of the global total and, over the past two decades, cumulative renewable energy investments in Africa have not exceeded this level.¹² Outside of China, emerging market and developing economies accounted for only around 15 percent of global clean energy spending.¹³ Technological, policy and financing barriers often prevent developing countries, and LDCs and SIDS in particular, from accelerating their shift to clean energy. These include challenges in accessing affordable financing, developing adequate infrastructure, and establishing supportive policy and regulatory frameworks. Facing high debt levels and increasing impacts of climate change, these countries require a significant increase in international cooperation and support including technology transfer and concessional finance to ensure a just and equitable global transition that leaves no nation behind.

Countries are overwhelmingly responding to the Global Stocktake’s (GST) call for greater energy ambition in their new NDCs, though in some areas more than others.

The call to action in the first GST’s decision recognizes the rapid energy system transformation needed to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.¹⁴ Evidence from the latest NDC submissions shows that countries are aligning targets with the GST’s guidance focusing 1) **tripling renewable energy capacity**; 2) **doubling energy efficiency**; and 3) **transitioning away from fossil fuels** in energy systems in a “just, orderly and equitable manner.”

As illustrated in Figure 2, a majority of countries commit to expanding renewable energy and improving energy efficiency, with 89 percent of countries outlining specific policy measures. Around 63 percent have identified specific policy measures in transitioning away from fossil fuels such as decarbonizing the transport sector, reducing methane emissions or phasing out unabated coal power. More than 80 percent of countries have included quantified targets for expanding renewables, while just over a third of countries have set targets in energy efficiency improvement and tackling the fossil fuel transition. Overall, measures aligned with the GST guidance across all three areas were mentioned in more than half of all new NDC submissions.

Figure 2: Overview of how newly submitted NDCs reflect the GST’s energy-related decisions

GST’s energy-related decision	General reference	Reiteration of support for the GST guidance	Inclusion of quantified targets	Identification of specific policy measures and actions
Renewable energy	100%	63%	84%	89%
Energy efficiency	95%	58%	37%	89%
Transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems	79%	53%	37%	63%

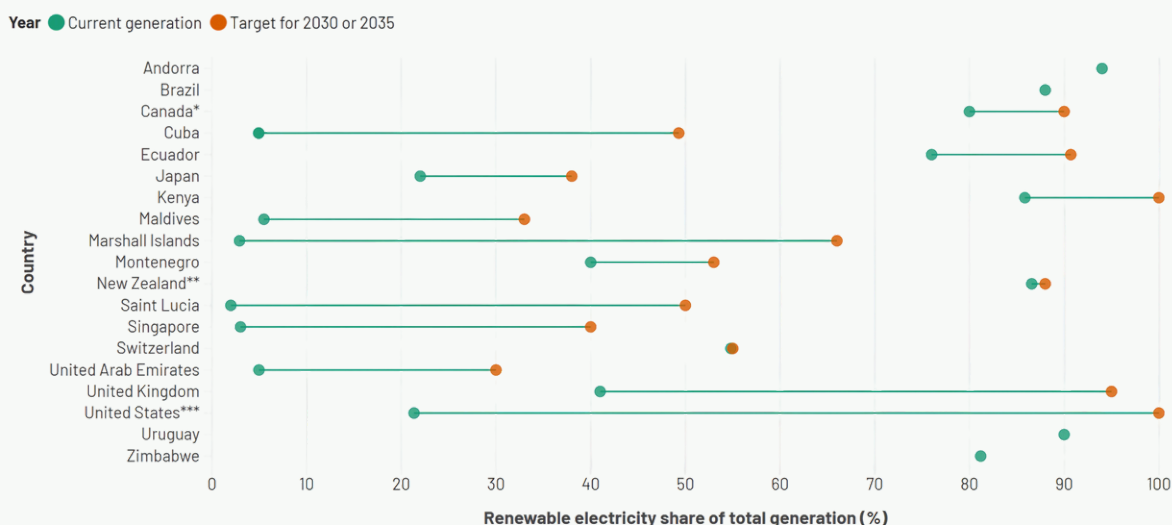
Source: UNDP’s analysis of 19 NDC submissions for the 2025 cycle as of 30 April 2025. Zambia is not included in the analysis due to the provisional nature of its submission.

1. Tripling renewable energy capacity by 2030

According to IRENA, to deliver the GST's call on tripling renewable energy, global installed renewable electricity generation capacity must triple from 3,391 GW in 2022 to 11,174 GW in 2030 and annual investments in renewable capacity must also triple from \$570 billion in 2023 to \$1.5 trillion in 2030.¹⁵

In response to the first GST and the global call to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030, countries have updated their NDCs with more ambitious renewable energy strategies. Many are either raising their renewable energy targets or consolidating already high shares of renewables (e.g., through diversification of renewable energy sources), while also prioritizing a wider mix of renewable technologies. As illustrated in Figure 3, a common target across a majority of countries is expanding the share of renewable energy in electricity generation, with many countries either reaffirming or setting higher targets that are aligned with their latest national energy policies and strategies. A few NDCs do not specify their target on renewable energy share of electricity consumption despite having set them in their respective national energy plans (**Canada** and **Japan**). **Brazil** has already surpassed its 84 percent renewable power generation by 2030, having reached 88 percent share in 2022, while **Uruguay** commits to maintain the 90 percent share of renewables in electricity generation. Notably, SIDS have shown clear leadership in raising renewable energy ambition, while the level of ambition among G20 countries and other emerging economies, though notable, has been more measured.

Figure 3: Renewable electricity share of total generation (%) reflected in new NDCs and updated energy policies in the 2025 cycle and/or energy policies of countries



Source: UNDP Analysis, with current (2022) generation data taken from IRENA (IRENASTAT),

Notes: *Canada's 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan lays out a target to achieve a net-zero emitting electricity system in Canada. Currently, the country states that over 80 percent of electricity is produced from "non-emitting" sources, with the goal of having 90 percent non-emitting electricity generation by 2030. **New Zealand's new NDC maintains its 2023 level renewable energy share at 88.1 percent citing that it has already tripled from the 1990 level, backtracking from its commitment from the previous NDC aspiring to achieve a 100 percent renewable energy share in electricity generation by 2035. *** The United States commits to a 100 percent "clean electricity" by 2035, which could include other forms of non-renewable energy such as nuclear.

Aligning SDG 7 and climate priorities through NDC processes

For many African countries, the next round of NDCs offer a strategic opportunity to align energy access goals under SDG 7 with national climate commitments. For example, as part of the [Mission 300](#) effort to electrify 300 million people across the continent, energy access can become a central pillar of national climate strategies. Twelve countries in the region have developed “[Energy Compacts](#)” with quantitative targets for expanding renewable energy generation, electricity access and clean cooking solutions, and the public and private financing needed to meet these ambitions by 2030. UNDP’s analysis reveals strong areas of alignment with emerging NDCs priorities. Across key SDG 7 action areas, countries are setting targets that are two to three times the current baseline. For example, [Nigeria](#) aims to more than double its share of renewables in installed generation capacity from 22 percent in 2024 to 50 percent by 2030. Similarly, [Madagascar](#) is committed to increasing their share from 45 percent to 85 percent by 2030. These ambitious targets can be easily translated into the new NDC currently under development in these countries, showcasing the alignment between new NDCs and equivalent Energy Compacts or strategies that articulate targets to 2030 and beyond.

2. Doubling energy efficiency by 2030

According to IRENA, to deliver the GST’s call on doubling energy efficiency, global energy intensity improvement must increase from 2 percent in 2022 level to 4 percent in 2030 and annual investments in energy efficiency must increase almost seven-fold from \$323 billion in 2023 to \$2.2 trillion each year until 2030.¹⁶

COP28 marked a significant milestone for energy efficiency with parties agreeing to double the global average annual rate of energy efficiency progress by 2030. According to IEA, to meet this goal the global annual rate in energy efficiency should be at four percent. The feasibility and financial incentive to deliver this goal has been proven. In the past ten years, nine out of ten countries have achieved the four percent rate at least once, and half have done so at least three times.¹⁷ A strong political commitment is, therefore, pivotal to ramp up policy implementation to achieve and sustain the target.

Positive signals on energy efficiency are emerging from the new NDC submissions, with 89 percent identifying specific policy measures and actions – including more efficient buildings and appliance efficiency, as well as forms of electrification that improve productivity in energy-intensive sectors. For example, **Zimbabwe** aims to improve industrial energy efficiency by eight percent by 2035 and implement a National Energy Efficiency policy across energy supply and demand. Meanwhile, **Brazil** aims to expand energy efficiency actions by developing markets for low-carbon hydrogen as an alternative to the use of fossil fuels.

In the **transport sector**, countries are targeting fuel switching, electric vehicle adoption and improving energy efficiency. For the first time, **Cuba's** NDC explicitly addresses the transport sector, aiming to increase the share of electric vehicles from 1 percent to 15 percent. **Ecuador** also prioritizes improving energy efficiency in transport as a key mitigation measure while **Kenya** emphasizes the adoption of clean and efficient energy use in the transport sector.



Photo Credit: UNDP Zambia

Improving energy efficiency to enable low-carbon transport and building systems that are just and inclusive

Bhutan's efforts in promoting [electric vehicles to reduce emissions in urban transport](#), by rolling-out over 280 EV taxis servicing over 800,000 passengers, have led to the establishment of national e-Mobility targets, mobilization of \$22 million in investments, and substantial cost savings of 98 percent by reducing vehicle fuel consumption. This effort is contributing to Bhutan's commitment to scaling EV deployment to reduce emissions in the transport sector, in line with its NDC and its Long-Term Low-GHG Emission and Climate Resilient Development Strategy (LTS) that aims to maintain the country's carbon-neutral status. Bhutan is committing to further enhancing these commitments as they prepare the update to their [NDC and LTS](#) this year.

In **China**, as part of a nation-wide green transformation programme, energy updates in public buildings including hospitals, schools and airports across the country are reducing emissions and saving costs – thanks to smart systems, green financing and scalable policy innovations. For example, a [hospital in Shanghai](#) has reduced annual CO2 emissions by 2,500 tonnes and improved cooling efficiency by 29 percent, generating important cost savings that have been reallocated to critical areas such as medical equipment, infrastructure, staffing and patient care. The nation-wide green transformation programme is one of the national initiatives contributing to [China's action plan for energy conservation and carbon reduction 2024-2025](#) in line with the NDC's commitment to promote energy-saving and consumption reduction in public institutions.

3. Transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems in a “just, orderly and equitable manner”

According to IEA,¹⁸ to achieve a 1.5°C aligned energy transition, countries must collectively:

- Reduce methane from fossil fuels by 75 percent by 2030.
- Reduce fossil fuel demand by more than 25 percent by 2030 and 80 percent in 2050.
- Advanced economies’ emissions must collectively decline by 80 percent and emerging markets and developing economies by 60 percent by 2035.

The first GST a historic outcome where parties agreed for the first time, after three decades of negotiations, to transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems in a “*just, orderly and equitable manner*.” Specifically, Parties agreed to accelerate net-zero emission energy systems by around 2050, accelerate the phasing down of unabated coal power, reduce emissions from road transport, and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that do not address energy poverty or just transitions, as soon as possible. So far, around half of the countries that have submitted new NDCs have included commitments and reiterated the GST’s call towards transitioning away from fossil fuels, and around 40 percent include quantified targets, which are mostly from developed economies.¹⁹



Photo Credit: UNDP Uzbekistan

An accelerated phase-out of fossil fuels also demands reduction in **super pollutants**, such as black carbon, methane, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and tropospheric ozone. This reduction also leads to achieving rapid climate, health and economic benefits, as these short-lived climate pollutants contribute to both warming and air pollution. **Uruguay** has tripled its HFC reduction target from 10 percent by 2030 to 30 percent by 2035 in its new NDC, while **Ecuador** expanded its gas coverage to include HFC in the new NDC, aligning with its long-term decarbonization strategy 2070. Other countries are demonstrating commitment through actions like joining the Global Methane Pledge to cut emissions by 30 percent by 2030 from 2020 levels and are translating these commitments into their national policies, including new NDCs. For example, **Turkmenistan** has developed [a comprehensive methane reduction roadmap](#), incorporating energy sector modernization and innovative technologies, which will be reflected in its new NDC and contribute to increased mitigation ambition.

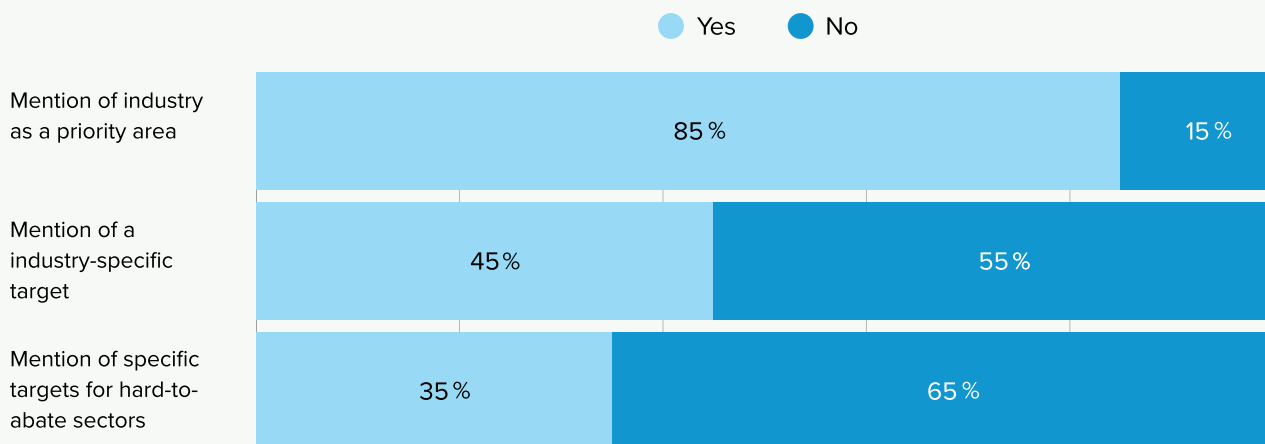
Several countries are identifying concrete action plans to **phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies**. The **Marshall Islands** commits in its new NDC to phase out fossil fuel subsidies that are not directly impacting vulnerable groups and has joined the [Coalition on Phasing Out Fossil Fuel Incentives Including Subsidies \(COFFIS\)](#), along with 15 other countries. **Uzbekistan** has launched energy subsidy reforms to gradually adjust tariffs and align prices with production costs. A [study](#) is being undertaken to delve into the multifaceted consequences of reducing fossil fuel subsidies in order to guide the government's policies, including the new NDC, towards sustainable economic development and effective governance. Some countries, especially developed and advanced economies, are already taking meaningful steps. **Singapore**, for example, is applying taxes on fossil fuel consumption through petrol duties. The country has also committed to phasing out unabated coal in its electricity mix by 2040 and is supporting regional efforts to retire coal-fired power plants. The **United Kingdom** has also signaled its commitment by joining international efforts to increase transparency and accelerate the phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies. The country aims to publish a national inventory on fossil fuel subsidies and incentives for improved reporting and sharing of lessons. Meanwhile, the **United Arab Emirates** implemented major fuel price reforms in the transport sector by removing subsidies on gasoline and diesel prices – a move that has been central in reducing emissions from the transport sector.

Decarbonizing industry: Tackling hard-to-abate sectors in NDCs

Not all sectors can be fully decarbonized through electrification alone — especially in heavy industries such as steel, cement and petrochemicals. While electrification can contribute to reducing emissions in some industrial processes, achieving deep decarbonization in these hard-to-abate sectors will require a broader mix of solutions. This includes sustained innovation, targeted policy support, and increased investment in research and development to unlock viable, low-carbon pathways at scale.

As a delivery partner to the [Global Matchmaking Platform](#) of the [Climate Club](#), an inclusive forum for exchange and collective, ambitious action on industry decarbonization, UNDP is supporting countries to accelerate the decarbonization of their industrial sectors. This includes working alongside other delivery partners, such as UNIDO's Net Zero Partnership for Industrial Decarbonization, GIZ, and the Climate Investment Funds, among others. Historically, industry-specific mitigation measures have been under-represented in NDCs, compared to other priority areas such as renewable energy production, sustainable transport and energy-efficient buildings. According to the 2024 NDC Synthesis Report, only 39 percent of NDCs include decarbonization targets for the industrial sector. **The new NDCs for the 2025 cycle represents a critical opportunity to close this gap and an encouraging sign is emerging from the new submissions to date.** As illustrated in Figure 4, industry is reflected as a priority mitigation area in 84 percent of the new submissions and 37 percent include explicit targets for hard-to-abate sectors.

Figure 4: Analysis of industry sector inclusion in the 20 new NDC submissions for the 2025 cycle (%)



Source: UNDP internal analysis, 2025.

How can countries strengthen clean energy ambition in NDCs?

Entry points

Actions

Country examples

Sectoral assessment

Assessing energy uses, emissions drivers, and data gaps

- Map existing or planned energy uses across energy-use sectors, GHG emissions hotspots, and opportunities for sector decarbonization.
- Cover all relevant energy-use sectors such as power, transport, industry, buildings, heating/cooling.

Cambodia is conducting assessments for energy and transport sectors, leveraging and harmonizing recent analyses and data to identify progress, gaps and setting new targets using scenario-based modelling.

Policy coherence

Alignment with existing energy and industrial policy, and setting targets that are quantifiable and time-bound

- Align energy targets with existing ones included in SDG 7 priorities, long-term strategies and energy transition plans.
- Where possible, set quantifiable and time-bound targets informed by relevant energy-system scenario models and consultative processes.

Iraq is reviewing and analyzing laws, regulations, development plans, institutional frameworks, investment plans, as well as existing instruments for policy, planning and reporting for the energy and transport sectors.

Costing and financing options

Consider existing energy finance commitments and cost calculations

- Establish links with ongoing national financing processes, budgets and project pipelines to strengthen investment readiness of energy actions in NDCs.
- Engage with investment actors, including international and local financial institutions, and the private sector.
- Map existing energy finance targets and instruments.

Nepal has conducted a comprehensive costing of the energy sector corresponding to the targets and measures proposed in their new NDC, currently being finalized for submission.

Sustainable development benefits

Account for just transition, gender, social inclusion, peace and security

- Incorporate just transition principals.
- Ensure gender and social inclusion are reflected.
- Address nexus areas such as energy for agriculture, energy for poverty reduction and resilience, energy for clean air and health benefits, and energy for security.

Zambia is undertaking gender and social inclusivity analysis for adaptation and mitigation actions for the energy and transport sectors and is reviewing existing mitigation targets to determine opportunities for the reduction of air pollution from super-pollutants, with the possibility of including stand-alone air pollution targets in its comprehensive, new NDC to be submitted ahead of COP30.

Country spotlight: Montenegro

Montenegro delivers a more comprehensive and robust NDC, committing to an absolute, economy-wide, net-domestic GHG emission reduction and aligning with the National Energy and Climate Plan and the European Union's standards.



Photo Credit: UNDP Montenegro

Montenegro's [new NDC](#) demonstrates a more comprehensive and robust commitment compared to the previous NDC by strengthening its 2030 GHG emission reduction target, expanding sectoral and gas coverage, and enhancing policy measures.

Montenegro commits to an absolute, economy-wide, net-domestic reduction of GHG emissions by at least 55 percent by 2030 and 60 percent by 2035, compared to 1990 levels. The previous NDC targeted a 35 percent reduction by 2030 compared to 1990 and excluding the Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector.

The new NDC now includes the LULUCF sector and a new gas, nitrogen trifluoride (NF₃), along with expanded mitigation measures across agriculture, industry, transport, infrastructure and waste sectors, and aligning with the [European Union's Directives and Regulations related to the Emissions Trading System \(ETS\)](#). The estimated costs of implementation is €1.57 billion and an additional €1.26 billion to meet the requirements for European Union (EU) accession by 2035.

The new NDC aligns with the global effort to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C considering Montenegro's national responsibilities and capabilities. While it does not explicitly articulate how its new commitments respond to the first GST, the updated NDC does incorporate the latest science, including findings from the IPCC AR6.

Furthermore, the new NDC is aligned with the development of Montenegro's National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) under the Energy Community framework, supporting the country's ongoing efforts in preparing for accession to the European Union. The NECP aims to increase the renewable energy share from 42.8 percent to 53.3 percent by 2030. The NDC also focuses on enhancing energy efficiency in buildings, especially public ones, through a new regulatory framework.

Synergies between the Rio Conventions (climate, biodiversity and land degradation) are acknowledged and adaptation is recognized as critical and aligned with the National Adaptation Plan, with specific contributions to be communicated separately.

Montenegro emphasizes gender equality, social inclusion, youth engagement, and the right to a clean environment, although explicit details on just transition and SDG alignment are lacking. The development of the NDC benefited from UNDP's technical support, including GHG emission projections, mitigation measures, a resource mobilization strategy, stakeholder engagement and document finalization. UNDP and the broader UN system will continue to assist Montenegro in implementing the new climate policies outlined in the country's new NDC.

Endnotes

1. The 20 countries are: Andorra, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Ecuador, Japan, Kenya, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Montenegro, New Zealand, Saint Lucia, Singapore, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, United States of America, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The UNFCCC tracks new NDC submissions in the 2025 cycle on a dedicated [NDC 3.0 page](#).
2. Nepal's [draft third NDC](#) was open for public inputs on 04 April 2025.
3. Moldova's [draft NDC](#) was put for public consultations in February and reviewed at the National Climate Change Committee during April.
4. UNDP (2025), [NDC Insights Series](#) Issue 2.
5. UNDP internal [analysis](#) of Climate Promise support to countries for the 2020 NDC revision cycle.
6. UNFCCC (2024), [NDC Synthesis Report](#).
7. IEA (2024), [World Energy Investment 2024](#).
8. IRENA (2025), [Renewable Capacity Statistics 2025](#).
9. BloombergNEF (2025), [Energy Transition Investment Trends 2025](#).
10. IEA (2025), [Global Energy Review 2025](#).
11. IEA (2024), [Energy Efficiency Market Report](#).
12. IRENA (2022), [Renewable Energy Market Analysis \(Africa and its Regions\)](#).
13. IEA (2024), [World Energy Investment 2024](#).
14. See paragraph 28 Decision1/CMA.5 [Outcome of the first Global Stocktake](#).
15. IRENA (2024), [Delivering on the UAE Consensus: Tracking progress toward tripling renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency by 2030](#).
16. IRENA (2024), [Delivering on the UAE Consensus: Tracking progress toward tripling renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency by 2030](#).
17. IEA (2023), [Energy Efficiency 2023](#).
18. IEA (2023), [Net Zero Roadmap: A Global Pathway to Keep the 1.5oC Goal in Reach](#).
19. UNDP's analysis (2025) as shown in Figure 2.



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