

## NDC Insights Series

Issue No. 7

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#### About Issue No. 7

This NDC Insights Issue will dive into the latest trends on submitted NDCs related to both ambition and quality. It also captures insights on policy coherence, specifically how NDCs are aligned with development plans and other policy instruments, namely across the Rio Conventions. Finally, this issue spotlights just transition as an emerging trend articulated in countries' new NDCs.

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## Latest trends and insights

To date, the third generation of NDCs are demonstrating strong progression – from enhanced mitigation targets and expanded adaptation measures to increased policy coherence and advancing just transition. These NDCs are laying the groundwork for more effective and inclusive climate action. As the world heads toward COP30 in Belém, Brazil, these insights present critical opportunities to convert ambition into action and accelerate NDC implementation.



As of 15 October 2025, 62 countries, including seven G20 countries, 10 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and 17 Small Island Developing States (SIDS), have submitted their new NDCs representing around 31 percent of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

- September saw a surge of 32 new NDCs submitted ahead of the UNFCCC's deadline for inclusion in its annual NDC synthesis report.
- Political moments including the Climate Summit 2025 and Pre-COP reaffirmed that multilateral cooperation and the UN system's support remain central to driving inclusive and ambitious climate action. Following the Climate Summit's announcements, a total of 125 Parties to the UNFCCC, representing nearly 80 percent of global GHG emissions and two-thirds of the global population, have either submitted or unveiled new NDCs.



Countries are applying a range of approaches to enhance mitigation ambition and strengthen adaptation.

- A majority of countries (75 percent) put forward economy-wide 2035 GHG targets and 84 percent expand sectoral policies and measures for mitigation, while 20 percent include new sectors and 30 percent add new gases.
- 75 percent strengthened their adaptation component, among which 80 percent expanded measures, 65 percent added new sectors, and 56 percent quantified targets. Importantly, a majority of NDCs (nearly 70 percent) align with National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) or related adaptation plans or policies.



Policy coherence is emerging as a defining feature of third generation NDCs, aligning NDC targets with development and sectoral priorities to respond to national contexts.

- More than half of new NDCs make direct reference to their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and two-thirds include measures that contribute to commitments under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
- One in five countries have emphasized a strong coherence across all three Rio Conventions, including Panama's presentation of its 'Nature Pledge.'



**81** percent of new NDCs include aspects of just transition, linking environmental goals with social equity, decent work and inclusive development that leaves no one behind. **42** percent include a dedicated section on just transition, signaling the significance these countries place in this critical area.

### **NDC** submission overview

As of 15 October 2025, a total of 62 parties¹ (seven G20, 10 LDCs and 17 SIDS), covering around 31 percent of total global GHG emissions,² have submitted new NDCs for the 2025 cycle. As anticipated, September saw a surge of submissions, with a total of 32 new NDCs submitted ahead of the UNFCCC's deadline for inclusion in its annual NDC synthesis report. Only one submission came in from the Kyrgyz Republic by the time of Pre-COP. It is noted that several countries have chosen to submit an interim or provisional NDC, which will be followed by a more comprehensive and complete submission by COP30 or later. This includes: Colombia, Jordan, Panama, Seychelles, Tunisia and Zambia.

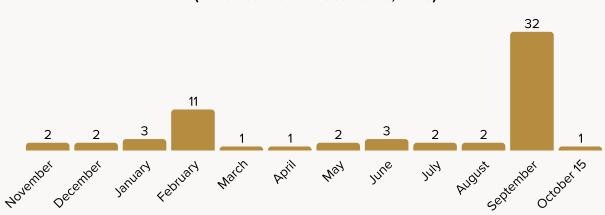


Figure 1: Number of NDC submissions for the 2025 cycle, by month (November 2024 to October 15, 2025)

Political moments in September and Pre-COP in October marked a pivotal momentum for global climate ambition and action. Three major political moments were held in September—the <u>second Climate Week 2025</u> (1-6 September), the <u>second Africa Climate Summit</u> (8-10 September) in Addis Ababa, and the <u>Climate Summit 2025</u> convened by the UN Secretary-General and the President of Brazil on 24 September in New York on the margins of the 80th UN General Assembly.

The second African Climate Summit showcased Africa's leadership in climate action. With a unified voice, African countries demanded climate justice, scaled-up adaptation finance and the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund. The <u>Addis Ababa Declaration</u> was adopted, calling for fair, predictable and scaled-up climate finance, with adaptation and resilience at its core. It highlighted the need to mobilize international, domestic and private finance to implement NDCs and NAPs.

At the Climate Summit 2025, nearly 100 countries, including 36 Heads of State and Government, came together to demonstrate their continued commitment to the Paris Agreement. Following announcements made at the Summit, 125 Parties to the UNFCCC, representing nearly 80 percent of global GHG emissions and two-thirds of the global population, have either submitted or unveiled new NDCs.

Major economies like **China, the European Union** and **Nigeria** unveiled their economy-wide targets for all GHGs and sectors. Leaders highlighted ambitious renewable energy goals, methane reduction efforts, forest protection targets and fossil fuel phase-out plans. Developing countries stressed the need for adaptation, resilience and loss and damage measures within NDCs, and called for urgent, scaled-up finance. The <u>Summit</u> reaffirmed that multilateral cooperation and the UN system support remain central to driving inclusive, ambitious climate action. **70** percent of developing countries participating in the summit that announced new climate pledges have been, or are being, supported by the <u>Climate Promise 2025</u>.

<u>Pre-COP</u> held on 13-14 October generated positive momentum with a strong commitment to multilateral cooperation with some preliminary agreements were reached, yet critical aspects of key negotiation issues including on finance, adaptation and just transition remain unresolved and will be addressed in Belém.

Together, these political moments elevated ambition, emphasized the critical importance of implementation, and reinforced the urgency of delivering bold and inclusive climate action on the road to COP30.

This NDC Insights Issue will dive into the latest trends on submitted NDCs related to both ambition and quality. It also captures insights on policy coherence, specifically how NDCs are aligned with development plans and other policy instruments, namely across the Rio Conventions. Finally, this issue spotlights just transition as an emerging trend articulated in countries' new NDCs.



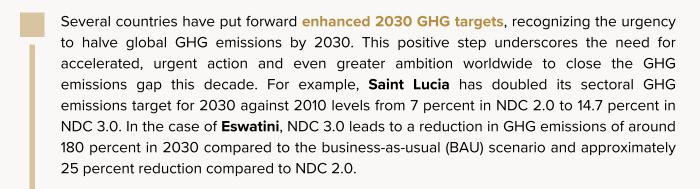
## **Mitigation ambition**

The third generation of NDCs marks a critical milestone in the global climate ambition cycle. As countries respond to the outcomes of the first global stocktake (GST) and prepare for COP30, early analysis³ reveals progress, but at the same time, persistent gaps in mitigation ambition remain, particularly in the short- and medium-term. The GST provided clear guidance on NDC ambition, requesting Parties to strengthen their 2030 targets and encouraging them to come forward with an economy-wide 2035 target, taking into account different national circumstances, with developed Parties expected to take the lead.⁴ This guidance further underscored the urgency of halving global GHG emissions by 2030 and accelerating the transition toward net zero by mid-century.

Countries are applying a range of approaches to align with this GST guidance and raise mitigation ambition. This includes: increasing GHG targets, strengthening the quality of the underlying GHG data, expanding sectoral scope and coverage of GHGs, and improving alignment with long-term strategies.

### **Key insights on GHG targets:**

- A majority of countries (75 percent) have put forward economy-wide 2035 GHG targets<sup>5</sup> with several countries introducing these targets for the first time. Montenegro's NDC 3.0, for instance, has included the Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (LULUCF) sector and Nitrogen trifluoride, a sector and GHG both absent in its previous NDC, making its new NDC economy-wide, covering all sectors and gases. Ecuador's new NDC, for the first time, includes an economy-wide GHG target, expanding sectoral scope and gas coverage, and is aligned with its long-term decarbonization strategy for 2070.
- Some countries opt for an absolute GHG emissions cap target or specify a peak emissions year, enhancing transparency and enabling better tracking of decarbonization pathways. For instance, Colombia sets an economy-wide absolute emissions cap of 155–161 MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq by 2035, aligned with its carbon budget and trajectory toward carbon neutrality by 2050, while Somalia's NDC 3.0 projects GHG emissions to peak at 57.5 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2032, then decline to 55.4 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e by 2035.
  - A growing proportion of countries have increased their unconditional targets, reflecting stronger domestic commitment and reduced reliance on international support. Cambodia introduced an unconditional component of its GHG reduction target for the first time, while Mongolia has increased the unconditional share of its emissions reduction target from 22.7 percent in its previous NDC to 30.3 percent in the new NDC.



#### Key insights on sectoral scope and coverage of GHGs:

A growing majority of countries are expanding the scope of mitigation by adding new sectors, expanding measures within existing sectors or including new gases, improving the comprehensiveness of mitigation action and providing a strong basis for accelerating mitigation implementation, compared to previous NDCs.



**84 percent** expand sectoral and/or sub-sectoral policies and measures for mitigation. For example, transport and industry have been included within **Cuba**'s NDC 3.0 as reflected by specific targets including increasing the percentage of electric vehicles to 10 percent by 2035 (currently standing at 1 percent). **Pakistan** has expanded the depth and ambition of mitigation actions by adding new sub-sectors such as aviation, maritime and circular economy.



**20 percent** have added a new mitigation sector, mostly Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU), with a few including LULUCF for the first time. For example, **Bolivia** added IPPU while **Mongolia** added LULUCF (forestry only) in their respective NDC 3.0. Saint Lucia included two new sectors in its new NDC, IPPU and AFOLU, while Energy was the only sector included in its previous NDC.



**30 percent** add new gases, mainly F-gases. **Saint Lucia**'s NDC 3.0 has included F-gases under the cooling sector and Lebanon expanded F-gases scope covering HFCs, PFCs, SF $_6$  and NF $_3$ . Some countries focus on reducing methane and other Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs) emissions. **Solomon** Islands included CH4 while **Eswatini** included black carbon and other air pollutants, while Chile is developing a regulatory roadmap and phase-out actions for methane.

#### Key insights on alignment with long-term strategies:

Many countries make reference or align with long-term strategies or lon-term low-emissions development strategies (LTS/LT-LEDS), embedding net-zero targets and interim milestones. Only a subset of these are fully aligned with long-term, net-zero goals and would result in lower cumulative emissions compared to previous NDCs. Taking into account preliminary analysis of the latest submissions and announcements made during the Climate Summit, the pathway to keep 1.5° Celsius in reach by the end of the century is still open but requires full implementation of high-ambition targets, including the enabling conditions to fully realize conditional targets. While initial assessments demonstrate progress in mitigation ambition, clear ambition gaps remain—particularly in the near-term.

## **Spotlight - Nigeria boosts climate ambition with new economy-wide NDC**

Nigeria's third NDC represents significant advancement from its previous NDC. Notably, it introduces a fixed baseline year, replacing the previous BAU scenario. The plan is economy-wide, covering all sectors and major GHGs, and sets a new target: a 32 percent GHG emissions reduction by 2035 against 2018 levels aligning with its long-term strategy for achieving net-zero emissions by 2060. The new NDC also reflects a more robust and science-based approach to climate planning.

The third NDC directly **responds to GST outcomes**, particularly in the energy sector. Key targets include increasing the share of renewable energy in electricity generation from the current share of 22 percent to 52 percent by 2035 and boosting energy efficiency by upgrading power systems and strengthening standards for appliances. It also expands mitigation efforts in key sectors and enhances sectoral integration through cross-cutting issue such as circular economy.

The new NDC also features more **comprehensive adaptation measures** across critical sectors such as food security and agriculture, water and sanitation, health, infrastructure and human settlements, ecosystems, livelihoods, and cultural heritage, aligning with the **UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience**. It emphasizes climate risk management, early warning systems, and nature-based solutions to build resilience.

A strong emphasis is placed on ensuring **just transition** and **social inclusion**. The NDC strengthens provisions for **gender equality**, climate education, citizen participation, access to information, and financial access for women, youth and small- and medium-sized businesses, while also linking its actions to the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs**). A high-level implementation framework is provided, laying the groundwork for a more **detailed costing and financing plan**.

The UN system, through the Climate Promise 2025, played a key role in supporting the development of Nigeria's third NDC. The Resident Coordinator Office led the overall coordination of the UN Country Team and high-level advocacy with Nigerian government and other partners. while FAO, ILO, IOM and UN-Women provided critical technical and financial support in agriculture, just transition, migration and gender equality. UNDP led overall technical support throughout the NDC development process, including GHG inventory updates, scenario modelling, inclusion of new sectors and alignment with development priorities and SDGs.



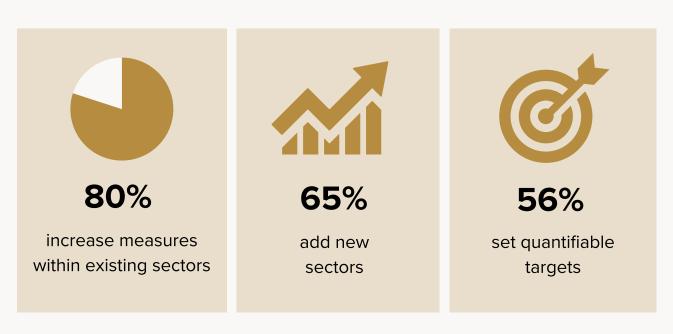
### **Adaptation ambition**

**Adaptation is gaining prominence** with the majority of newly submitted NDCs including an adaptation component and many making explicit reference to NAPs or related adaptation planning instruments. Some countries have indicated that they will communicate adaptation goals in a separate instrument. This reflects a growing recognition of climate impacts and the need for resilient development. UNDP's analysis shows that countries are increasingly using their NDCs to advance adaptation planning, in **alignment with their NAPs** and the <u>UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience</u>.

### **Key insights:**

More than 85 percent of countries have included adaptation in their new NDCs, and 75 percent enhanced their adaptation components. Countries are doing this in several ways, largely by expanding sectoral coverage, increasing the number of measures and/or setting quantifiable targets, as indicated in the statistics below. For example, **Sao Tome and Principe** commits to ensure all agricultural areas are covered by climate information and 90 percent of rural farmers have access to forecasts and early warning systems by 2035. In **Liberia**, new sectors including fisheries, coastal zones, freshwater ecosystems and resilient

energy and infrastructure were included in the new NDC with clear quantified targets.



Over 80 percent of new NDCs explicitly reference NAPs or related adaptation planning or policy instruments, with nearly 70 percent indicating a strong alignment between NDC adaptation priorities and those in their NAPs or related adaptation planning and policy instruments. Countries gain tangible benefits from aligning NDC and NAP processes: it reduces operational burdens, improves coordination and efficiency, increases visibility and political support, and strengthens the case for investment in adaptation.

This alignment also helps unlock financing for adaptation priorities, making climate action more effective and sustainable. For example, **Bangladesh**'s third NDC demonstrates a deliberate alignment with its NAP 2023–2050, with 65 out of 113 adaptation interventions from the NAP included as NDC adaptation priorities and selected for their feasibility within the NDC's implementation timeframe of 2026–2035. **Ethiopia**'s NDC 3.0 builds on its NAP, integrating adaptation targets across key sectors and institutionalized within its well established, nationally-led Climate Resilient Green Economy architecture.

A growing number of countries are aligning their adaptation goals with the **UAE Framework on Global Climate Resilience**. Around 40 percent of new NDCs reference the Framework and indicate close alignment, signaling convergence around shared principles for enhanced adaptation and climate-resilient development. **Lebanon**'s NDC 3.0 explicitly references the UAE Consensus and includes adaptation priorities across agriculture, forestry, water, biodiversity, urban infrastructure, health, disaster risk reduction and tourism. **Chile**'s NDC 3.0 integrates the UAE Framework's thematic and dimensional targets through 12 sectoral adaptation plans and a NAP (2025–2028). These include water, health, biodiversity, infrastructure, and cultural heritage, and early warning systems.

# Spotlight: Moldova's adaptation is anchored by policy alignment and legal foundation

Moldova has significantly enhanced adaptation ambition in its NDC 3.0 as compared to the country's previous NDC. NDC 3.0 benefits from a much stronger legal foundation that includes Law 74/2024 on Climate Action and the National Climate Change Adaptation Programme, submitted to the UNFCCC as its NAP in 2024. Moldova's NDC 3.0 was informed by its fifth National Communication and first Biennial Transparency Report, demonstrating that not only is NDC 3.0 rooted in updated data and scientific information, but also represents a legal obligation linked to Moldova's climate neutrality and development laws. This illustrates comprehensive alignment between Moldova's NDC, NAP, climate and development policy, and legal framework.

The NDC 3.0 also has broader, yet more specific, adaptation priorities and NDC3.0 provides a **list of costed priority activities**, **broken down by sector**. These priorities

are **comprehensively aligned** with the country's NAP, which provides a detailed governance and implementation framework for adaptation in the country. A robust **monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) framework** elaborated in the NAP has now been incorporated into NDC 3.0.

Moreover, the NDC 3.0 has an enhanced description of the **means of implementation** including cross-referencing the GCF Country Programme for the period 2023-2027, aligning with the NAP, outlining progress made since the previous NDC, and listing implementation priorities for NDC 3.0. Moldova also includes a section on **gender-responsive climate adaptation**, highlighting the critical roles of women-led networks, grassroots organizations and cooperatives in adaptation efforts at the community level.

UNDP, through the Climate Promise 2025, has played a key role in supporting Moldova in enhancing the adaptation component of NDC 3.0, with a strong emphasis on gender mainstreaming, as well as supporting the NAP process, with GCF Readiness financing. Other partners from the UN system, including FAO, have also provided critical support to the NDC and NAP, particularly on priorities related to agriculture.



## Policy coherence to advance climate, environment and development agendas

Policy coherence is emerging as a defining feature of third generation NDCs. Countries are increasingly leveraging their NDC processes to align climate, biodiversity and land targets, creating synergies across the Rio Conventions. Countries also emphasize strong coherence and alignment of their NDCs with development strategies, policies and/or plans, ensuring that climate action is embedded within broader development planning at national, sectoral and/or subnational level.

#### **Key insights:**

All submitted NDCs include biodiversity, ecosystems, nature-based solutions and/or nature-related priorities as contributions to either mitigation or adaptation, or both.



**54 percent** make direct reference to **NBSAPs**. This alignment strengthens the coherence between climate and nature policies and enhances implementation effectiveness. **Angola** commits to integrate its NBSAP into NDC implementation and monitoring and has instituted a National Commission on Climate Change and Biodiversity to enhance coordination among key institutions. **Colombia**'s NDC 3.0 positions climate action as a unifying framework that integrates biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in line with its NBSAP.



Over 70 percent include measures and actions that contribute to deliver commitments under the UNCCD, with 25 percent making explicit reference to the LDN targets or the National Action Programme to Combat Desertification. Bolivia's NDC 3.0 explicitly aligns multiple sectoral goals with its LDN targets and UNCCD commitments including restoration of degraded soils, sustainable forest management, and resilient agricultural systems. Morocco's NDC 3.0 includes dedicated measures for implementing its National Action Programme to Combat Desertification, which plays a key role in reducing forced migration linked to land degradation.



One in five countries have explicitly emphasized a strong coherence across climate, biodiversity and land under the **Rio Conventions** (UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD). For example, **Liberia**'s NDC 3.0 articulates its integration of Rio Conventions' objectives, while synergies were mapped across the Rio Conventions to inform policy and measure priority setting in **Sri Lanka**'s NDC 3.0.

All countries have aligned their NDCs with national and/or sectoral development strategies and plans and over 90 percent specifically make the link to subnational plans and the role of subnational level governments in implementing new NDC commitments. For instance, Barbados' Mission Barbados 2023, the Barbados 2035 Investment Plan, and the Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan, integrate climate resilience and sustainable development. In Lebanon, each sector has dedicated strategies and plans integrated with NDC targets. Nepal has strong subnational alignment, which includes Provincial Climate Change Coordination Committees and Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPA) across 753 local governments to implement NDC commitments.

# Spotlight: Panama's Nature Pledge to advance syngergies across climate, biodiversity and land

Panama's NDC 3.0 significantly enhances policy coherence across climate, biodiversity and land compared to its previous NDC, particularly in its alignment with the Rio Conventions. The most notable advancement is the formal integration of these three domains under the "Nature Pledge," which serves as a unifying framework for climate action, biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management. This marks a shift from its previous NDC, where sectoral commitments were present but not explicitly coordinated under a single integrative structure.

The new NDC introduces institutional innovations such as the proposed **National Cabinet for Climate Change and Green Transition**, which will consolidate national committees on climate change, biodiversity and desertification into a single governance body. This structure is designed to ensure cross-sectoral coordination and inclusive decision-making, involving youth, Indigenous Peoples, Afrodescendant communities and other vulnerable groups.

The Nature Pledge also strengthens synergies by embedding co-benefits of mitigation and adaptation—such as ecosystem restoration, carbon sequestration and biodiversity protection—into its national targets. For example, the restoration of 100,000 hectares of ecosystems, including mangroves, is framed not only as a climate mitigation measure but also as a biodiversity and land-use strategy. This coherent policy-making approach will enhance coordination to mobilize finance for sustainable development as a whole.

Furthermore, a **robust participatory process**, ensuring the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and vulnerable groups. Special attention was given to integrating **gender-responsive approaches**, with mechanisms to promote women's leadership and participation in climate governance.

**Youth engagement** was also prioritized, with platforms created to amplify their perspectives and contributions. These participatory mechanisms not only enhanced the legitimacy and equity of the NDC 3.0 but also strengthened national ownership and accountability. The inclusive approach reflects Panama's commitment to **human rights, social equity** and **environmental justice**.

UNDP, under the Climate Promise 2025, played a key role in supporting and strengthening the leadership of the Resident Coordinator's Office in coordinating technical contributions from various UN agencies (ECLAC, FAO, ILO, UNDRR, UNEP and UNICEF) to support Panama's NDC 3.0 development and implementation.



## **Emerging trend: Just transition**

The concept of just transition is increasingly recognized as central to climate policy and as such, has been incorporated into NDCs, linking environmental goals with social equity, decent work and inclusive development. Preliminary analysis of new NDCs reveals that 81 precent embedding just transition principles across key policies and measures, while 42 percent including a dedicated section on just transition, signaling it as a core component of the NDC.

UNDP, together with key partners, are helping countries connect the dots between **climate action, social inclusion** and **sustainable development**. Based on UNDP's support, five key areas are identified as essential building blocks of defining and delivering a just transition pathway:

- 1. Transition impact assessments to understand socio-economic implications of climate action;
- 2. Stakeholder engagement to ensure inclusive decision-making;
- 3. Institutional, policy and capacity-building support to accelerate just transition;
- 4. Financing and investment strategies that support equitable outcomes; and
- 5. Measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) systems for tracking progress.

Just transition is predominantly featured as part of stakeholder engagement and institutional, policy and capacity-building support areas (94 percent of countries). At the same time, half of countries (51 percent) include just transition in their MRV systems to track progress. G20 countries are predominantly anchoring just transition across impact assessments, MRV and finance, while LDCs and SIDS show stronger integration in stakeholder engagement and in policy, institutional and capacity-building support (see Figure 2.)

(overview by country group)

SIDS LDCs G20 Global

Transition impact assessments

Stakeholder engagement

Institutional, policy and capacity-building

Financing and investment

Measurement, reporting and verification

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

Figure 2. Analysis of just transition inclusion in new NDCs submitted as of 15 October 2025 (overview by country group)

Below provides a snapshot of how countries reflect the five just transition areas in new NDCs and is accompanied by selected examples of Climate Promise-supported countries.



61% incorporated transition impact assessments

**Jamaica**, jointly supported by UNDP and ILO, developed a green economic growth model to assess social, employment and economic impacts of transforming to a green and climate-resilient economy. The <u>study</u> shows that green scenarios could positively impact GDP, generating up to 8,000 new jobs (including for women and youth). The study and its associated multistakeholder dialogues have helped to inform evidence-based NDC preparation and to ensure just transition in climate action.



94%

promoted inclusive stakeholder engagement

**Cuba** carried out an analysis on just transition in green livelihood opportunities and stakeholder engagement to identify the roles of women and other vulnerable groups in different key sectors of the NDC and to support empowerment in NDC implementation.



94%

embedded institutional, policy and capacitybuilding support for just transition In **Zimbabwe**, a youth climate finance training was provided to young leaders focusing on strengthening youth capacity in climate finance systems and essential skills for developing bankable projects. As part of the programme, a Youth Climate Finance Alumni Network was established to further promote youth engagement in climate action. The training operationalized Zimbabwe's commitment under NDC 3.0 to integrate youth in climate finance and carbon trading frameworks.



71%

provided measures linking just transition to climate finance

**Lebanon**'s NDC 3.0 features a comprehensive financing plan supporting a just transition, with the Lebanon Green Investment Facility (LGIF) at its core. The LGIF de-risks investments and mobilizes public and private finance for NDC implementation. It requires gender-disaggregated reporting on jobs and beneficiaries and ensures adherence to human rights standards. The facility exemplifies the importance of just transition finance in enabling a climate-resilient recovery, including in post-crisis scenarios.



**52%** 

proposed MRV framework to track progress on just transition **Sri Lanka**'s NDC 3.0 integrates MRV systems across sectors, including loss and damage tracking and climate finance transparency. It emphasizes inclusive data systems, stakeholder engagement and gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) indicators. MRV supports evidence-based policymaking and tracks impacts on employment, income inequality and access to resources for marginalized groups.

Beyond the five areas, skills development and employment creation in green sectors also emerges as a key element for just transition in several countries including Australia, Bangladesh, Belize, Bolivia, Cambodia, Kenya and Nigeria. Efforts include training and education programmes to help workers transition from high-carbon industries to sustainable employment opportunities. Attention is given to marginalized communities, including women and Indigenous Peoples, to ensure they have equal access to these opportunities.

More can be done to embed just transition into climate strategies in a meaningful and measurable way. There is a growing need for stronger public and private investment as well as actions to integrate social inclusion to ensure no one is left behind. As countries prepare for COP30, embedding just transition into NDC preparation and implementation processes will be essential to ensure climate action is fair, inclusive and transformative.

## Spotlight: A model of just transition integration in climate action in Eswatini

**Eswatini**'s third NDC provides a model for integrating just transition in climate action. The NDC was formulated based on a robust sector assessment that considered economic, employment and social impacts. Mitigation and adaptation actions are designed to avoid unintended harm and maximize co-benefits, such as job creation, improved health and enhanced food security. Capacity-building, skills development and enterprise support are also well-integrated in sectoral measures. The NDC emphasizes engagement and inclusivity by recognizing the diverse voices and needs of different group, especially those of women, youth, persons with disabilities and informal sector actors. Implementation of the third NDC will require up to US\$3 billion, with 80 percent of funding anticipated from domestic or international sources, both public and private.

The third NDC's formulation process was supported by UNDP under the Climate Promise 2025, which also assists Eswatini with financing readiness through a climate expenditure tracking system. UNDP and its key partners will continue to work with the Government of Eswatini to develop an NDC implementation plan with clear targets and sectoral investment plans to ensure that implementation is inclusive, equitable and socially just.

## Charting the road to COP30

The third generation of NDCs reflect a growing maturity in climate planning, with countries demonstrating strong progression in ambition, higher quality and transparency, and deeper integration across sectors and policy frameworks. From enhanced mitigation targets and expanded adaptation measures to increased policy coherence, particularly across Rio Conventions and the inclusion of just transition, NDC 3.0 submissions are laying the groundwork for more effective and inclusive climate action. The Paris Agreement and its ratchet mechanism are indeed working, yet collectively, global climate action has not reached the pace and scale needed to meet the Paris Agreement's goals.

As the world heads toward COP30 in Belém, Brazil, these insights offer a clear signal: countries are not only responding to the outcomes of the first GST, but also actively shaping the future of climate governance. The alignment of NDCs with long-term strategies, national development plans and the Rio Conventions, through a lens of just transition, demonstrates a shift toward integrated solutions that deliver co-benefits for climate, nature and people that leaves no one behind.

However, ambition gaps remain—particularly in near-term mitigation and financing for implementation, which remain significantly lacking. COP30 must therefore serve as a turning point, delivering a **credible global response plan** that accelerates implementation, strengthens equity and unlocks the resources needed by all countries to meet the Paris Agreement's goals.

The insights from the third generation of NDCs provide a roadmap for action. They highlight where progress is being made, where support is needed, and how countries can work together to deliver transformative outcomes. With political momentum building and technical pathways clearer than ever, **COP30 offers a critical opportunity to convert ambition into action.** 



### **Endnotes**

1. The 62 countries are: Andorra, Angola, Australia, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Holy See, Iceland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Niue, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, United States of America, Vanuatu, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The UNFCCC tracks new NDC submissions in the 2025 cycle on a dedicated NDC 3.0 page.

- 2. World Resource Institute's Climate Watch Historical GHG Emissions 2021.
- 3. Artificial intelligence has been used to assist in the analysis of NDC 3.0 content and been verified by UNDP's thematic experts.
- 4. Paragraphs 37-39 of the global stocktake.
- 5. Including both absolute and business-as-usual targets.
- 6. It is important to note, however, that the new target cannot be directly compared to the target in the previous NDC due to changes in the GHG inventory, as reflected in Nigeria's first BTR.



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