UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

NDC Insights Series

Final Issue

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A DECADE OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT: A COMPENDIUM OF NDC INSIGHTS

About Final Issue

This final issue of the NDC Insights series is the culmination of the Insights published throughout 2025, which captured trends emerging from the third generation NDCs. This final issue explores insights across 10 key thematic areas, including new themes that have not been captured in past series, such as cities and climate and peace and security. It also showcases the results of the UN system's support to countries, under the Climate Promise 2025, in preparing their new pledges and charting the next phase of support to help countries accelerate implementation and deliver more ambition climate action.

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Acronyms

BRT	Bus Rapid Transit
BTR	Biennial Transparency Report
CBAM	Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CDRFI	Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance
COP	Conference of the Parties
DCO	Development Coordination Office
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ETS	Emissions Trading System
ETF	Enhanced Transparency Framework
EW4All	Early Warnings for All Initiative
EWS	Early Warning Systems
EV	Electric Vehicle
F-gases	Fluorinated gases
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
G20	Group of Twenty
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GMP	Global Matchmaking Platform
GST	Global Stocktake
HCWM	Healthcare Waste Management
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPPU	Industrial Processes and Product Use
IP	Indigenous Peoples
IT	Information and Technology
ITMO	Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcome
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
LC	Local Communities
LDC	Least Developed Country
LDN	Land Degradation Neutrality
LEDS	Low-Emission Development Strategy
LGIF	Lebanon Green Investment Facility
LTS	Long-Term Strategy
LT-LEDS	Long-Term Low-Emission Development Strategy
LULUCF	Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry
M300	Mission 300 Africa Initiative
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MRV	Measurement, Reporting, Verification
$MtCO_2e$	Metric Tonnes of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NF_3	Nitrogen Trifluoride
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
PaM	Policies and Measures
PM2.5	Fine Particulate Matter (2.5 micrometers)
PwD	Persons with Disabilities
RBP	Results-Based Payments
RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SCALA	Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture Programme
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SLCP	Short-Lived Climate Pollutant
TOD	Transit-Oriented Development
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

Summary

As countries mark 10 years since the adoption of the Paris Agreement, the third generation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are advancing ambition and showing a decisive shift in quality. New NDCs incorporate broader sectoral action and outline more rigorous and concrete implementation pathways. Overall, the new generation of NDCs are reinforcing a commitment for multilateralism and international cooperation.

By the end of 2025, 128 Parties representing about 78 percent of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions had submitted new NDCs for the 2025 cycle. Of these, 61 countries were supported by the United Nations (UN) system under the Climate Promise 2025, representing 71 percent of all developing country submissions. The support from the UN system is evident in many new NDCs. Countries have strengthened their economy-wide emphasis on climate action, demonstrated country ownership and social inclusion, included comprehensive co-benefits for economic and social development, and reflected a higher-level of credibility that encourages investment. Several key trends are emerging.

- **Countries are taking concrete steps forward on mitigation ambition and aligning their targets with their long-term net-zero targets. However, persistent gaps remain in the short- and medium-term.** As the science underscores that a 1.5°C overshoot is inevitable, greater ambition of new NDCs and more urgent action is critical. At the same time, in light of an expected overshoot, **efforts to enhance adaptation and address loss and damage are equally critical**. Many new NDCs, particularly from developing countries, have prioritized these components with enhanced measures and scope: 90 percent of developing country NDCs enhanced adaptation and 80 percent make explicit reference to loss and damage.

- **NDCs are demonstrating concrete progress in highlighting key sectors and emerging themes that are fundamental to countries' economies and societies and will help move the needle on climate action:** Notably, all countries include **energy**, with around 80 percent referencing plans to reduce the share of fossil fuels in their energy mix, 63 percent including quantified renewable energy targets and over 50 percent of those with coal in their electricity mix mentioning plans to phase down unabated coal power. Almost 90 percent include **forest**-related measures for both mitigation and adaptation, recognizing forests' vital role in both curbing GHG emissions and strengthening resilient livelihoods. Emerging thematic areas such as **circular economy** (referenced by 84 percent) and **climate, peace and security** linkages (70 percent of countries in fragile settings) demonstrate widening recognition of the interconnected nature of climate and development priorities.

- **The new climate pledges are more fully embedded in national development priorities and processes and have stronger coherence with other international frameworks, including the Rio Conventions and sustainable development goals (SDGs)**. Countries are increasingly aligning NDCs with national development and sectoral strategies. At the same time, 95 percent of NDCs included direct references to the role of nature and biodiversity, aligning with the biodiversity and land restoration agendas under the Rio Conventions. This coherence strengthens governance, reduces policy fragmentation and reinforces integrated approaches to tackling climate, nature and land-related challenges.

- **New NDCs are deepening country ownership, enhancing inclusivity and advancing just transition commitments.** Most countries (95 percent) embedded gender equality and social inclusion in their NDCs, while more than 90 percent included just transition principles, recognizing the need for equitable, socially-grounded pathways that protect workers, communities and vulnerable populations as economies decarbonize.
- **Countries are emphasizing the importances of robust transparency mechanisms and setting clearer signals for investment to turn their ambition into action.** This is a key priority for developing countries that are advancing efforts to strengthen transparency systems as cornerstones of credibility, accountability and market readiness. New NDCs reflect that 88 percent of developing countries are moving beyond ad-hoc reporting and developing permanent national transparency frameworks, while 80 percent are providing clearer signals for finance with more than half including costed measures and detailed governance structures to enable implementation. However, many developing countries, especially Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), still require additional support to move from ambition to actionable investment plans complemented by data systems.

This final issue of the NDC Insights Series is the culmination of the insights published throughout 2025, which captured trends emerging from the third generation NDCs. It provides evidence to highlight how countries are presenting stronger climate commitments while clearly articulating the support needed to deliver them. This final issue explores insights across 10 key thematic areas, including new themes that have not been captured in past series, such as cities and climate and peace and security. It also showcases the results of the UN system's support to countries, under the Climate Promise 2025, in preparing their new pledges and charting the next phase of support to help countries accelerate implementation and deliver more ambition climate action.

Section 1

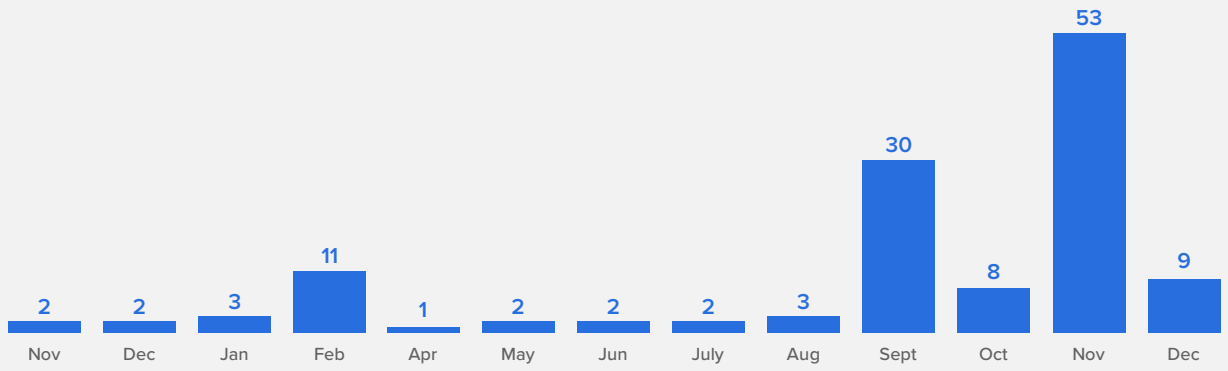
Overview of NDC submission

Overview of NDC submission

As of 31 December 2025, a total of **128 parties**,[1] **representing around 78 percent of GHG emissions,**[2] have submitted new NDCs for the 2025 cycle (Figure 1). These include submissions from **21 SIDS, 19 LDCs and 18 G20 members.** Two remaining G20 members that have yet to submit a new climate pledge are Argentina and India.

During November 2025, there was a surge in NDC submissions from 53 Parties as political momentum was building in the lead-up to COP30. However, over 50 Parties which initially were expected to communicate their new pledges at COP30 postponed submissions to 2026 due to both political and operational reasons. As a result, **over 60 Parties are now expected to communicate their new NDCs in 2026.**

Figure 1. Number of NDC submissions for the 2025 cycle, by month (November 2024 to December 2025)



At COP30, NDCs were at the heart of many discussions, including how to respond to recent submissions. Despite challenging circumstances, COP30 concluded with the "Belém Package," which aimed to address this question. It includes reference to two new presidential initiatives: 1) The Global Implementation Accelerator focused on supporting countries to implement their NDCs and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and 2) the Belém Mission to 1.5°C, to foster ambition and international cooperation on mitigation, adaptation and investment. There was also acknowledgement of support from UN organizations and other development partners to help countries implement their new NDCs. Overall, the Belém Package was a hard-fought compromise that reinforced the Paris Agreement, the 1.5°C limit and the importance of adaptation, including the adoption of a set of indicators for the Global Goal on Adaptation and the commitment to triple adaptation finance by 2035. Heading into 2026, and on the road to COP31, countries will continue to prioritize accelerating NDC implementation. Insights on both the process and outcomes of preparing the latest NDCs can help to guide and strengthen these efforts.

Section 2

Insights on NDCs

Insights on NDCs

This section explores insights on NDCs across 10 key areas illustrated below. Key mitigation and adaptation sectors are further explored under the 'sectoral measures and thematic approaches' area. These include energy, transport, industry, forests and land use, agriculture and food systems, water resources and oceans, health, circular economy, resilient and green cities, climate, peace and security, and disaster risk management.

NDC INSIGHT ON

Mitigation ambition

The Paris ratchet mechanism is working: new NDCs reveal progress as countries are applying a range of approaches to align with the global stocktake (GST) guidance and raise mitigation ambition.

New NDCs are broadly consistent with a linear trajectory from their 2030 targets to their long-term net-zero targets, yet, persistent gaps in mitigation ambition remain, particularly in the short- and medium-term. Urgent, science-based policies to significantly cut emissions and enhance carbon sinks, are essential to close near-term gaps, limit overshoot and quickly return to a 1.5°C consistent pathway.

The third generation of NDCs marks a critical milestone in the global climate ambition cycle. As countries respond to the outcomes of the first GST,[3] UNDP analysis of new NDCs submitted as of 31 December 2025 reveal progress on mitigation ambition as countries are applying a range of approaches to align with the GST guidance. 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.

Progression in mitigation ambition is visible across GHG emissions target formulation and configuration modalities. Trends we are seeing include:

- A majority of countries (over 75 percent) have put forward **economy-wide 2035 GHG targets**[4]- with several countries introducing these targets for the first time.
- 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.
- A growing proportion of countries have increased their **unconditional targets**, reflecting stronger domestic commitment and reduced reliance on international support.
- Several countries have put forward **enhanced 2030 GHG targets**, recognizing the urgency to halve global GHG emissions by 2030. This positive step underscores the need for accelerated, urgent action alongside greater ambition worldwide to close the GHG emissions gap this decade.

Scope and coverage are also improving. Below provides an overview of how the scope and coverage have been expanded compared with previous NDCs.

89%
expand sectoral and/or sub-sectoral policies and measures for mitigation

31%
add a new mitigation sector or sub-sector, mostly Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU)

38%
add new gases, mainly F-gases

Many countries reference or **align with long-term strategies (LTS/LT-LEDS), embedding net-zero targets** and interim milestones. Analyses from UNFCCC's 2025 NDC Synthesis Report reveals that the emissions trajectories set out in new NDCs are broadly consistent with a linear trajectory from the Parties' 2030 targets to their long-term net-zero targets.

However, **persistent gaps in mitigation ambition remain, particularly in the short- and medium-term**. With new NDCs, GHG emissions in 2035 are projected to be around 12 percent below 2019 levels, compared to an increase of 20 to 48 percent before the adoption of the Paris Agreement. This shows that Parties are laying out clear stepping-stones towards net zero, although acceleration of action is still needed. UNEP's Emissions Gap Report 2025 projects a 2.3–2.5°C rise with full NDC implementation, down from 2.6–2.8°C last year. The Paris ratchet is working, but not fast enough to keep 1.5°C within reach without a limited overshoot. Urgent, science-based policies to significantly cut emissions and enhance carbon sinks, including halting and reversing deforestation, are essential to close near-term gaps, limit overshoot and quickly return to a 1.5°C consistent pathway.

SPOTLIGHT

Barbados

Photo: UNDP Barbados/Shani Leacock

Barbados has advanced its climate ambition with a more structured and ambitious new climate plan. The new NDC commits to maintain its ambitious 2030 target of 70 percent below 2030 business-as-usual levels and reach 95 percent renewable electricity and a full transition to electric vehicles. At the same time, it introduces an economy-wide emission reduction target of 45 percent below 2008 levels by 2035. Barbados also commits to self-financing 65 percent of mitigation costs, up from 50 percent in the previous NDC. Underscoring this commitment, the new NDC also introduces sector-specific decarbonization pathways, especially in energy, including transport and cooling. As such, it emphasizes net-zero emissions by 2050, with clearer interim milestones, aligning its strategy with the 1.5°C pathway and a long-term vision of a fossil fuel-free economy.

Explore more spotlights online.

NDC INSIGHT ON

Adaptation ambition

Developing countries are advancing adaptation ambition and aligning NDCs with NAPs and sustainable development policies. Nearly 90 percent of new NDCs from developing countries have a strengthened adaptation component, over 80 percent reference NAPs or related adaptation instruments, and 45 percent have strong alignment with sustainable development policies. This sets a major shift towards promoting adaptation as part of a broader sustainable development approach compared to earlier NDC iterations.

Adaptation commitments are becoming more specific, measurable and multi-sectoral, with around 80 percent of new NDCs expanding sectoral coverage, 83 percent adding detailed measures within existing sectors and nearly 50 percent setting quantifiable targets.

Adaptation has become a defining feature of the 2025 NDC cycle. UNDP analysis of new NDCs submitted from developing countries as of 31 December 2025 for the 2025 revision cycle shows that almost all countries (nearly 90 percent) are intensifying efforts to address increasingly frequent and severe climate impacts through an enhanced adaptation component of their new NDCs. More specifically, the majority are expanding to include new sectors (78 percent), adding detailed measures within existing sectors (83 percent) and introducing quantifiable targets (47 percent). Many governments are moving beyond broad intentions to articulate actionable pathways for climate-resilient development.

83%
expand adaptation measures within sectors

78%
add new priority adaptation sectors

47%
set quantifiable adaptation targets

There is a strong trend of enhancing alignment between NDC adaptation priorities and NAPs. More than 80 percent of new NDCs reference NAPs or related planning processes — a key alignment indicator. Alignment is critical because it reduces fragmentation and institutional 'siloing', strengthens coordination and is a key enabler of increased adaptation finance because alignment also implies, *inter alia*, common investment priorities and monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

Countries are also increasingly grounding their adaptation strategies in national development frameworks. Of newly submitted NDCs, 45 percent indicate strong alignment with the country's broader sustainable development policies and plans, by integrating NDC targets and measures into national

planning. This reflects, among other things, growing policy coherence, interest in systems-level resilience, improved early warning capacities, and enhanced monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) frameworks.

While many countries have expanded the range of sectors included in their NDCs, adaptation priorities continue to primarily centre on agriculture and food security, water resources, public health, ecosystems and infrastructure and the built environment. Many NDCs are now explicitly linking adaptation priorities to their national development visions and plans, climate or environment laws, and sector strategies. This is key evidence that adaptation, and climate action more generally, is a key pillar of national approaches to sustainable development.

SPOTLIGHT

Supporting climate-resilient livelihoods in Mongolia


Photo: UNDP Mongolia/Saruul Dolgorsuren

Mongolia's NDC 3.0 expanded adaptation measures with specific goals and targets across eight key sectors (biodiversity, water, forests, animal husbandry and pastureland, arable farming, health, social protection and livelihoods and disaster risk reduction), while adding two new sectors (education and culture). Given that Mongolia's economy and rural livelihoods rely heavily on climate-sensitive natural resources, addressing animal husbandry, pastureland and arable farming is particularly critical. These sectors face growing vulnerabilities from climate impacts, threatening food security and herder livelihoods. Enhancing sustainable livestock management and climate-resilient crop production is therefore essential for strengthening long-term resilience. The UNDP-FAO SCALA programme has supported Mongolia in assessing the establishment of forest strips around arable land, providing an evidence base for defining agriculture sector adaptation targets in NDC 3.0. The programme also facilitated multistakeholder sectoral working groups to define measures for animal husbandry and arable farming, including gender-specific targets. SCALA will continue supporting Mongolia to implement its NDC 3.0 through capacity-building on gender-responsive climate budgeting and the development of de-risking strategies and investment-ready proposals to mobilize private investment in NDC priorities.

Explore more spotlights online.

NDC INSIGHT ON

Sectoral measures and thematic approaches

The following section explores insights across key sectors and themes as illustrated below.

Energy

Transport

Industry

Forests and land use

Agriculture and food system

Water resources and oceans

Health

Circular economy

Resilient and green cities

Climate, peace and security

Disaster risk management

Energy

The majority of new NDCs lay out plans to increase the deployment of renewable energy and improve energy efficiency gains. Around 80 percent also explicitly mention plans to reduce the share of fossil fuels in their power mix.

Most countries (95 percent) include at least one policy commitment towards reaching the GST energy goals of tripling renewable energy capacity, doubling energy efficiency gains or transitioning away from fossil fuels.

63 percent of NDCs now include quantified renewable energy targets, demonstrating growing confidence in accelerated clean energy deployment. Solar emerges as the dominant technology, referenced in almost 75 percent of new NDCs.

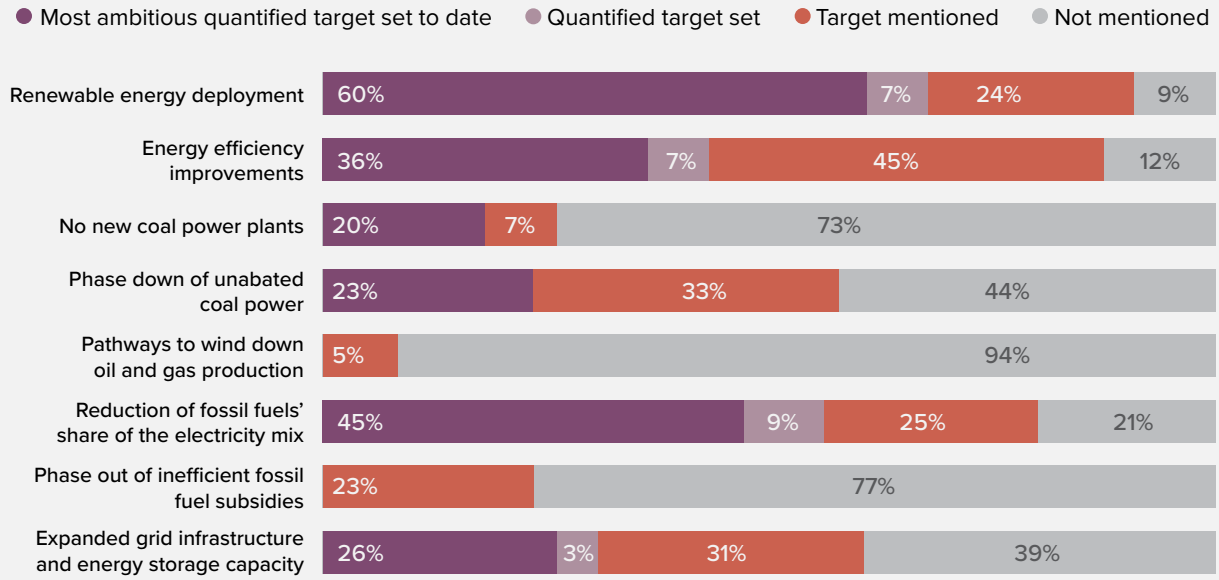
Energy access is central to NDC actions in developing countries with 85 percent referencing access to electricity, of which 56 percent include a quantified target. For clean cooking, 67 percent include references, of which 76 percent have a quantified target.

Reducing GHG emissions in the energy sector, which accounts for more than three-quarters of global GHG emissions, is critical to meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement. At the same time, increasing access to renewable energy is also an important adaptation measure by strengthening community livelihoods and reducing vulnerability to shocks, including fuel price spikes and disruptions in energy supply. Declining technology costs and stronger political commitments are accelerating the shift to clean energy. Global investments in the energy transition reached a new record of US$2.4 trillion in 2024—a 20 percent increase from the average annual levels of 2022 and 2023—of which about one-third ($807 billion) was directed towards renewable energy technologies, especially solar photovoltaics.[5]

In collaboration with E3G,[6] an analysis of new NDCs revealed that **95 percent included at least one policy commitment to make progress on the energy outcomes of the GST**, i.e., tripling renewable energy capacity, doubling energy efficiency gains or transitioning away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly and equitable manner. LDCs and SIDS are leading across many elements, as illustrated in Figure 2 below.

While references to expanding renewables and boosting efficiency are widespread, the depth of these commitments varies. **Of new NDCs, 86 percent now include a specific renewable energy target**, and **63 percent include quantified renewable energy targets**, demonstrating growing confidence in accelerated clean energy deployment. In contrast, **only 44 percent provide measurable energy efficiency goals**, highlighting a persistent gap in planning for this crucial pillar of the transition. LDCs and SIDS are leading, with nearly 84 percent referencing quantified renewable energy targets and more than 62 percent referencing quantified energy efficiency targets.

Figure 2. Country NDC targets towards reaching the first GST's related energy outcomes



Note: Analysis of new NDCs submitted as of 19 December 2025. Analysis and graphic produced in collaboration with E3G.

Approximately 80 percent of NDCs contain targets or plans to lower the share of fossil fuels in their electricity mix by 2035. This provides evidence that the majority of countries are planning to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels within the power sector. Of the NDCs submitted by countries with coal in their electricity mix, more than half mention plans to phase down unabated coal power. The majority of these countries also plan to increase the deployment of renewable energy, displacing coal in their power systems. This demand-side shift to reduce fossil fuel use in the power sector is not mirrored in the NDCs of fossil fuel producer countries, where explicit plans to phase down oil and gas production are entirely absent. Consistent with this, no country has submitted an NDC that comprehensively aligns with all tracked GST energy outcomes. This indicates that while governments increasingly recognize the benefits of clean energy systems, most have not yet paired these ambitions with detailed strategies to wind down fossil fuel production in line with global commitments.

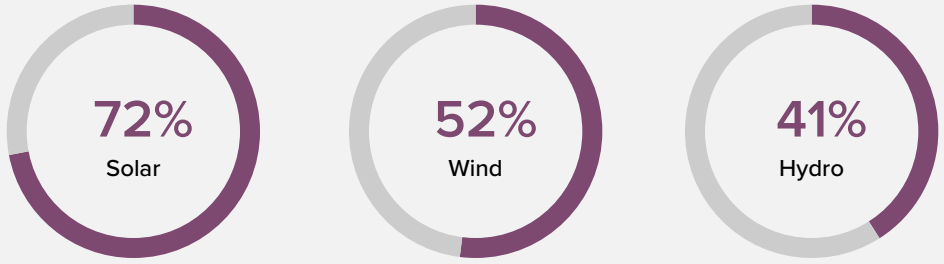
More than 75 percent of NDCs (and 90 percent of those from emerging markets and developing economies) are partly or fully conditional on international finance, technical assistance or other forms of support. This underscores the critical need for scaled, predictable global cooperation to enable full implementation of energy-transition commitments, and the strategic opportunity to use NDCs as investment blueprints for this purpose.

Solar is a global front-runner

A closer examination of technology-specific commitments reveals important global and regional patterns. **Solar emerges as the dominant technology, referenced in 72 percent of all new NDCs or 84 percent of NDCs that include any renewable energy commitment. Of these, 42 percent include**

a quantified target, which is more than double the number for wind (20 percent). This likely reflects solar energy's increasingly favorable cost profile, modularity and minimal infrastructure requirements, which make it easier for countries to scale rapidly compared to other technologies. As illustrated in Figure 3, LDCs and SIDS make the highest references to solar technologies at 95 percent, far exceeding wind and hydro. Among G20 countries, however, wind receives slightly greater emphasis than solar, though both technologies feature relatively few quantified targets. There is also a coupling of renewable energy technologies (wind and solar) among G20 countries, with nearly all countries integrating the building out of both wind and solar capacity as part of their expansion goals.

Figure 3. Renewable energy technologies inclusion in new NDCs



Note: Analysis of new NDCs submitted as of 19 December 2025. Analysis and graphic produced in collaboration with E3G.

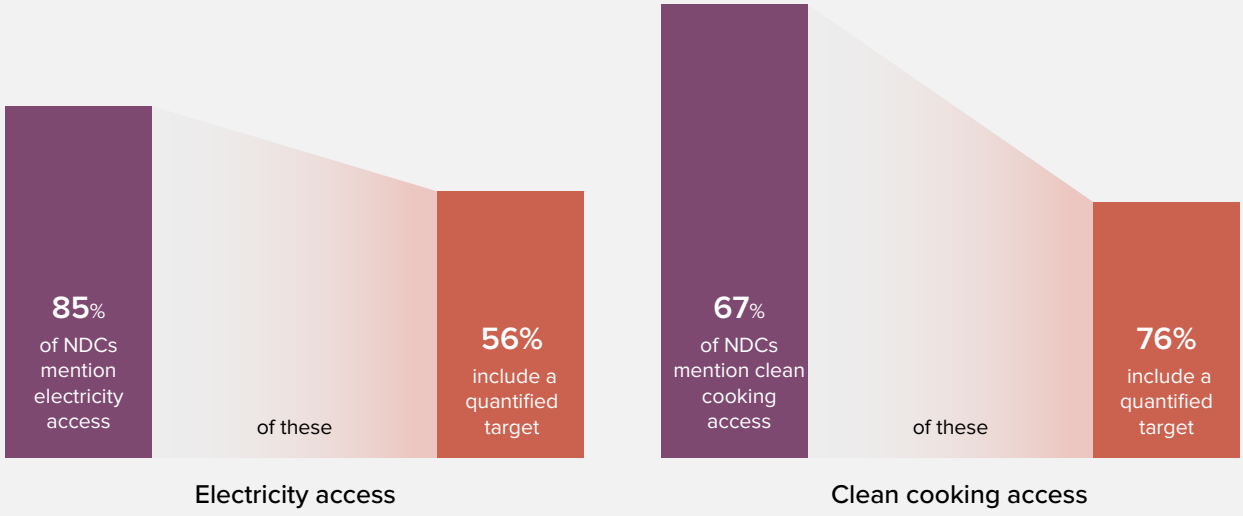
Energy access is central to NDC actions across many countries

For many countries, new NDCs present a strategic opportunity to align energy access goals with their national climate commitments. Regional initiatives such as Mission 300 (M300), which aims to provide electricity access to 300 million people across Africa, create an opportunity for this alignment. National Energy Compacts under M300 already include quantitative targets for expanding renewable electrification and clean cooking.

Currently, **85 percent of new NDCs prioritize electricity access, of which 56 percent include quantitative targets** (Figure 4). Specific actions include increasing connectivity to grids and storage systems and scaling rural energy access through distributed renewable energy, including mini-grids and stand-alone systems. Energy access is also central to economic diversification and resilience (e.g., in **Zambia**, where productive uses of renewable electricity are supporting more resilient livelihoods). Some NDCs also articulate electricity access pathways at institutional and sectoral levels, such as linkages between electricity production and transport as well as the electrification of heating and cooking in buildings.

Relatedly, **67 percent of NDCs mention clean cooking, of which 76 percent include specific quantitative targets and measures**, such as scaling up the adoption of fuels and technologies by a percentage share, or higher-tier solutions such as renewable-based electric cooking, biogas or bioethanol. This analysis, illustrated in Figure 4, builds on a previous assessment by UNDP and FAO published in November 2025, titled "Advancing clean cooking for climate action: pathways to higher-tier solutions and scaled investment."

Figure 4. Electricity and clean cooking access inclusions in new NDCs



Note: Analysis of new NDCs submitted as of 31 December 2025.

Promoting productive uses of energy in Zambia

Zambia's National Green Growth Strategy underscores the need to diversify the energy mix by scaling up renewables like solar, wind and geothermal —essential steps for strengthening climate resilience, enhancing energy security and unlocking new pathways for socio-economic development. With support from UNDP and key partners, Zambia's NDC 3.0 included sustainable energy as a priority sector. A key focus is expanding distributed renewable energy systems, including solar mini-grids and stand-alone systems, and making sure that energy goes beyond just lighting homes. To achieve this, Zambia's approach prioritizes productive uses of renewable energy: powering businesses, agriculture and clean cooking to generate income, improve livelihoods and drive inclusive growth.

Clean cooking access in Nepal

Nepal has achieved rapid electricity access expansion, rising from less than 70 percent of the population in 2010 to over 90 percent by the early 2020s, driven by hydropower development and rural electrification. Despite this progress, approximately 60 percent of households still rely on firewood as their primary cooking fuel, especially in rural and mountainous regions. In response, the government—through the Alternative Energy Promotion Centre and the Nepal Electricity Authority —has begun integrating electric cooking (e-cooking) considerations into grid expansion, tariff design and clean cooking policy frameworks, as outlined in their NDC 3.0. As a result, Nepal's NDC 3.0 includes specific targets for e-cooking, including plans to increase access to 2.1 million households and 15,000 institutions and firms.

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Transport

Reflecting the importance of the transport sector on countries' GHG emissions, the majority of NDCs (95 percent) refer to energy efficiency in transport and include references to electrification of vehicles and/or shifting to low- or zero-carbon fuels.

Fewer NDCs (44 percent) reference shifting to non-motorized forms of transport, signaling an area of opportunity to strengthen NDC ambition.

Cities are a focus for transport solutions, with 70 percent of new NDCs including references to transit-oriented development (TOD) as an integral part of urban planning.

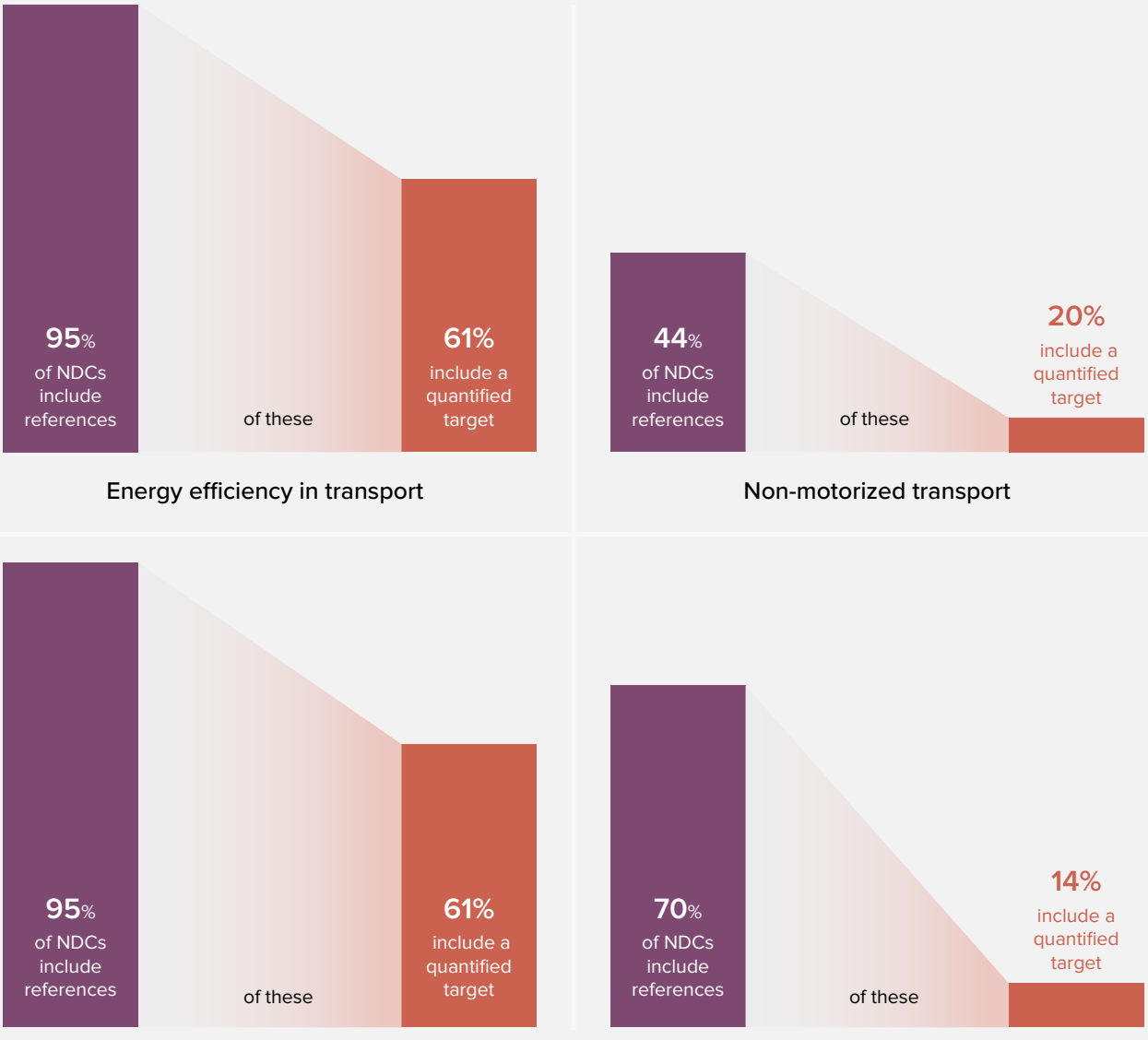
Making up 24 percent of global energy-related CO_2 emissions,[7] the transport sector is pivotal to achieving national decarbonization strategies and reaching NDC mitigation targets, with numerous opportunities for developing well-defined, high-impact solutions. This is underscored in the first GST that identifies road transport as one of eight key priorities areas for GHG emissions reductions in the energy sector.[8] The GST also highlighted the need for comprehensive, system-wide transformation of the energy sector, which includes transport sector actions.

UNDP analysis of new NDCs submitted as of 31 December 2025 offers key insights and better understanding of how transport is being reflected in these new pledges in line with the GST's call to action related to transport. Key findings, as shown in Figure 5, include:

- **The majority of NDCs (95 percent) reference energy efficiency in transport, and nearly two-thirds of these NDCs (61 percent) provide a quantitative target.** Examples of measures include electrification, restricting imports of inefficient vehicles, scrapping obsolete vehicles, prioritizing electric/hybrid vehicles in procurement, use of alternative fuels and increasing energy use efficiency per passenger-kilometer or tonne.
- **Almost all new NDCs (95 percent) mention transport electrification and/or the use of zero-carbon fuels for transportation. Of these, more than half (61 percent) provide a quantitative target.** This signals the centrality of this action to national GHG emission reduction strategies. Examples of measures include increasing electric vehicle (EV) adoption (in public and private fleets) and EV infrastructure, fiscal incentives for EVs, increasing the use of alternative fuels, and electrification of rail, aviation and maritime transport.
- **Close to half of new NDCs (44 percent) include measures for non-motorized transport, but of these, only 20 percent provide a quantitative target.** Measures mainly relate to promoting bicycles and increasing the walkability in urban and peri-urban areas.

- **Given that sustainable transport transformations largely take place in cities, 70 percent of new NDCs reference TOD integrated with urban planning.** This reflects how cities are integral to transport solutions, particularly as urban populations are expanding in many developing countries. However, **only 14 percent of these NDCs include quantitative targets for TOD**, indicating an area of opportunity for countries to consider strengthening in future NDCs. TOD measures include integration of land use and mobility, extending metro and bus rapid transit (BRT) lines, establishing low-emissions corridors, densification around transit hubs, risk-informed physical plans and compact city development.

Figure 5. Transport-related references and targets included in new NDCs



Note: Analysis of new NDCs submitted as of 31 December 2025.

Ecuador

A 2024 UNDP study in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region revealed an overemphasis on e-mobility, overshadowing other critical measures needed to reduce GHG emissions in the transport sector, which is the region's largest source of energy-related emissions, accounting for 39 percent of the total. The study helped inform Ecuador's priority setting in the transport sector, which remains central to NDC commitments, representing nearly 50 percent of energy-sector emissions. While the previous NDC prioritized electric mobility, the new NDC broadens the scope to include diverse solutions that contribute to a comprehensive low-emission transport sector. To enable implementation, a comprehensive diagnostic was undertaken to identify practical low-emission mobility options tailored to Ecuador's infrastructure and geographic, cultural and socio-economic realities. As a result, four cities—Galápagos, Cuenca, Manta and Yantzaza—were selected to guide a national transport roadmap for NDC implementation.

Pakistan

Pakistan, through its National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (NEECA), developed Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure and Battery Swapping Regulations in 2024, and set crucial guidelines for public and private stakeholders (Scaling Up Electric Mobility) that support the implementation of its National Electric Vehicle Policy (2025-2030). This effort laid the groundwork for strengthened transport targets in Pakistan's NDC 3.0, which proposes 30 percent of new vehicle sales to be electric by 2030 alongside an additional 3,000 charging stations. Ambitions are being realized through public EV transport systems in major cities, backed by charging infrastructure and regulations. Over 50 local firms now assemble electric motorcycles and rickshaws, aided by tax incentives, advancing Pakistan's transition to sustainable mobility. The NDC also speaks to adaptation, including measures to integrate climate resilience standards into all new major transport infrastructure and to update engineering codes to address climate risks.

Costa Rica

Costa Rica's NDC 3.0 presents one of the most comprehensive and measurable transport mitigation frameworks in the region, combining electrification, efficiency, modal shift and cleaner fuels under clear timelines and performance indicators. Costa Rica aims to transform its public transport sector to improve accessibility, safety, service quality and territorial equity. Key targets by 2030 include 3.5 percent of the bus fleet becoming electric and the remainder upgraded to EURO VI standards, half of rail units replaced with electric ones, and black carbon emissions from public transport reduced by 20 percent relative to 2021. By 2035, 10 percent of the public transport fleet should be zero-emission. Costa Rica also plans to advance electromobility with targets that include 10 percent of private vehicles operating on electromobility by 2030, rising to 20 percent by 2035.

Industry

Over 90 percent of new NDCs now identify industry as a priority sector for mitigation, and many have strengthened sectoral commitments. 69 percent include quantified targets and 34 percent specify actions for hard-to-abate sectors.

Decarbonization actions in hard-to-abate sectors remains uneven. Some countries emphasize economy-wide decarbonization measures, such as carbon pricing and leakage protection, that will impact heavy industries. Others include sector- and process-level measures (e.g., energy efficiency measures or material improvements in cement and steel production).

Industry accounts for more than a quarter of global GHG emissions and is central to countries' economic growth, trade and job creation. Yet, the sector has historically lagged energy, buildings and transport in national mitigation strategies. In response, the Climate Club was launched at COP28 to accelerate global action on industry decarbonization. A Global Matchmaking Platform (GMP), hosted by UNIDO, provides countries with targeted technical and policy support. As delivery partner to the Climate Club and GMP, UNDP is supporting countries to strengthen how industry is represented in both NDC enhancement and implementation.

Analysis of new NDCs submitted as of 31 December 2025 shows that countries are increasingly establishing measurable industrial mitigation targets.[9] Over 90 percent of NDCs reviewed refer to the industrial sector as a priority for mitigation action, while 69 percent include numerical or time-bound targets for GHG emissions reduction or efficiency improvements (either within the industrial sector or as part of broader economy-wide goals), and 34 percent outline specific actions for hard-to-abate industries such as cement, steel and petrochemicals.

92%
mention industry as a priority mitigation area

69%
include quantitative industry measures

34%
include quantitative measures for hard-to-abate sectors

Whether at the country, region or income level, a wide range of approaches are emerging. G20 countries often frame industrial decarbonization within wider industrial strategies and cross-cutting enabling frameworks. For example, the **United Kingdom (UK)**'s NDC references carbon pricing and the UK Emissions Trading System (ETS) and notes the role of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) in supporting competitiveness and carbon-leakage protection. While the NDC does not set explicit, quantified targets for cement or steel, these instruments are relevant to reduce industrial emissions. CBAM coverage from 1 January 2027 applies to carbon-intensive imports including cement, iron and steel, while the UK ETS covers heavy industry.

Meanwhile, **Indonesia** proposes process and material measures, such as increasing blended cement and reducing clinker intensity, and improving process efficiency in iron and steel, while **Nigeria** has introduced more explicit quantitative measures for the cement sector, including substituting 10 percent clinker in 33 percent of cement production. Similarly, **Thailand** provides a quantified example, proposing carbon capture, utilization and storage measures for hard-to-abate sectors, including approximately 0.54 $MtCO_2e$ for cement and 0.81 $MtCO_2e$ for petrochemicals. Finally, **Brazil** links industrial transformation to its broader industrial policy agenda, including the Nova Indústria Brasil (New Industry Brazil), and highlights the adoption of new technologies for industrial processes, including carbon capture technologies in heavy industries.

Costa Rica

Costa Rica's NDC 3.0 prioritizes industry decarbonization efforts through measures promoting energy efficiency, technological innovation, substituting fossil fuels with renewables in thermal processes, and adopting low-carbon technologies in key hard-to-abate sectors such as cement. During the preparation phase, UNDP supported government efforts to develop cement industry mitigation measures for the NDC 3.0 and a comprehensive decarbonization roadmap for the cement sector to support future implementation. This included identifying and prioritizing enabling factors and institutional arrangements necessary for implementation of the roadmap.

Türkiye

Türkiye's NDC 3.0 places strong emphasis on reducing GHG emissions in the industry sector as part of economy-wide mitigation actions. As the cement sector accounts for nearly 14 percent of national GHG emissions, Türkiye has identified it as a priority for action under its Green Growth Technology Roadmap. The project, Advancing the Decarbonization of Türkiye's Cement Industry, supports this national agenda by improving energy efficiency, increasing the use of alternative raw materials, and piloting innovative technologies to reduce process emissions and accelerate the adoption of low-carbon technologies. The project also developed a Technology Implementation Action Plan and strengthened the enabling policy environment, while mobilizing blended finance to scale investment. Together, these interventions aim to catalyze a sector-wide transformation, directly supporting Türkiye's NDC implementation and its pathway to net zero by 2053.

Forests and land use

Forests and land use are prominent in the new NDCs as a critical sector for mitigation and adaptation ambition. 96 percent include a reference to forests and land use, and 71 percent include a specific, quantified target related to the land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector. Nearly 90 percent of new NDCs comprehensively include a role for forests under both mitigation and adaptation.

Reducing GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and enhancement, conservation and sustainable management of forest carbon stocks (REDD+) is gaining momentum, with nearly half of new NDCs from developing countries (45 percent) making direct reference to REDD+ in the context of NDC implementation.

The leading role of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and local communities (LCs) in forest conservation and restoration for enhancing resilient livelihoods is well-recognized, with 72 percent of new NDCs including specific LULUCF or forest-related measures that involve IPs and LCs as key actors.

The world remains off track to meet the 2030 global forest goals. The Forest Declaration Assessment 2025 and the World Resource Institute's State of Climate Action Report 2025 both indicate that, despite notable progress in some countries, global rates of deforestation and forest degradation remain alarmingly high and, in some regions, continue to increase. To align with the 1.5°C pathway, global deforestation would need to decline by approximately 10 percent annually through 2030;[10] however, current trends show losses occurring at more than double that rate. There is an essential need to combat deforestation and forest degradation by scaling up NDC ambition and implementation. The new round of NDCs is taking a significant step in the right direction, with clear examples of a strengthened and expanded role for the LULUCF sector to deliver both mitigation and adaptation gains.

Based on UNDP analysis of new NDCs submitted as of 31 December 2025, four key insights emerge:

1. **The majority of new NDCs (96 percent) make references to LULUCF and its significance to national climate action, with 71 percent including quantified LULUCF targets.** Several countries have introduced such targets and measures to their NDCs for the first time. The **Bahamas**, for example, has included a new target for LULUCF, aiming to reach net-zero emissions in the sector by 2050, in line with its long-term strategy. The **Marshall Islands**' NDC 3.0 has aligned new LULUCF mitigation targets with the national Forest Action Plan, focusing efforts on replanting and preservation of native varieties of local food trees, some of which are currently endangered.
2. **Countries recognize the contribution of forests to both mitigation and adaptation**. Almost all (96 percent) of new NDCs include forests as part of mitigation targets, while 93 percent reflect forests and land use as a key sector for adaptation goals. 88 percent of NDCs comprehensively define a role for forests under both mitigation and adaptation.

3. **As part of countries' strengthening or expanding of LULUCF coverage, the role of REDD+ specifically has been enhanced. 45 percent of developing country NDCs refer to REDD+ and 35 percent have made specific references to REDD+ results-based payments (RBPs)**. Developing countries generally reference their REDD+ actions with a greater level of detail and increasingly make explicit reference to their national REDD+ strategies. This includes, for example, highlighting the application of REDD+ social and environmental safeguards or presenting ongoing REDD+ implementation and RBPs as central pillars of NDC delivery. For example, **Ecuador**'s latest NDC highlights the importance of how its national REDD+ RBPs support NDC implementation. The country has reinvested Green Climate Fund RBPs into its REDD+ Action Plan, supporting Indigenous communities, strengthening forest monitoring and promoting women's empowerment.

4. **Of new NDCs, 72 percent reference IPs and/or LCs in the context of forest goals and/or measures**. The NDCs present an array of solid examples of specified forest and land-use measures that are either driven by, or involve, IPs and LCs. For example, in **Brazil**'s NDC, IPs and LCs are explicitly mentioned in the context of both adaptation and mitigation strategies, rights protection and participation in sectoral plans. In the context of REDD+ implementation, the NDC refers to benefit-sharing mechanisms and restoration projects prioritizing Indigenous lands and community-managed areas. Another example is the NDC of **Ethiopia**, which recognizes IPs and LCs as central to participatory forest management and a Green Legacy Initiative. There is also a dedicated focus on women and youth in nurseries and cooperatives.

71%

include a quantified LULUCF target

88%

include forests for both mitigation and adaptation

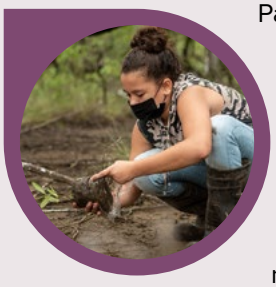
45%

of developing countries include REDD+ in the context of NDC implementation

72%

of NDCs with forest and land-use related measures indicate a specific role for IPs and LCs

Panama



Panama's NDC 3.0 strengthens ambition in the LULUCF sector by positioning land use, forests and coastal ecosystems as central to maintaining the country's carbon-negative status and achieving net-negative emissions by 2050. The country commits to restoring and reforesting 100,000 ha of ecosystems by 2035, including 2,500 ha of mangroves, with expanded sectoral actions for forests and land use. LULUCF measures are included for both mitigation and adaptation. In the context of mitigation, enhanced removals and avoided deforestation are specified, while the focus for adaptation is on sustainable forest management, nature-based solutions and resilience in forest and coastal areas. The NDC also emphasizes Indigenous and community participation – for example, the involvement of IPs and LCs in agroforestry systems and REDD+ initiatives.

Côte d'Ivoire

The updated NDC lays out ambitious forest targets, aiming to limit forest cover loss to 550,000 hectares by 2035 through measures including biodiversity protection, zero-deforestation agricultural policies, implementation of REDD+ and strengthened forest governance. In the case of REDD+, the NDC includes a target to have 10,000,000 ha of territory covered by a jurisdictional REDD+ programme by 2035. To date, the country has secured $50 million from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility for 10 million tonnes of certified emission reductions via REDD+, alongside a landmark $23 million deal with Emergent for verified jurisdictional credits. Côte d'Ivoire's experience illustrates how jurisdictional REDD+ can serve as a mitigation pathway and a lever for attracting high-integrity private and public climate finance, while supporting national efforts toward forest restoration and conservation goals.

Indonesia

Indonesia's latest NDC states that its forest and other land use net sink 2030 target will be achieved through reducing GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, increasing carbon sequestration capacity of natural forests, increasing carbon sequestration of land systems, reducing emissions from fires and peat decomposition, law enforcement and provision of economic incentives and financial mechanisms. Implementation of Indonesia's REDD+ strategy is also identified as playing a central role in making the net sink 2030 target possible. The NDC also includes a number of specific forest and land-use measures, including a moratorium for primary forest conversion, peatland and mangrove restoration, afforestation, social forestry programmes and blue carbon initiatives related to mangroves and seagrasses, as well as a goal to improve reforestation accounting through enhanced measurement, reporting and verification (MRV).

Agriculture and food systems

The new generation of NDCs recognize agriculture and food systems as pivotal for advancing both adaptation and mitigation goals. More than three-quarters of new NDCs highlight these priorities, reflecting their potential to enhance resilience to climate impacts while reducing GHG emissions. This dual focus supports integrated efforts toward resilient, low-emission agriculture and food systems.

While progress on addressing food loss and waste reported under SDG 12.3 is falling short, the issue is gaining recognition in the new NDCs with over 70 percent making indirect references and around 20 percent including specific measures, indicating opportunities to drive change through climate action.

Agriculture and food systems are recognized as a priority sector in nearly all NDC 3.0 submissions. Two-thirds of countries report that climate impacts are affecting their agriculture and food systems, with over half citing disruptions to agricultural production and more than a third highlighting growing food security and nutrition concerns.[11] This recognition of climate-related impacts underscores both the urgency of addressing them and the accelerating pace at which they are occurring. The UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience also reflects this, with a target on resilient food and agriculture production, supply and distribution,[12] while the Belém Adaptation Indicators adopted at COP30 include five indicators for assessing progress towards this target.

While **almost all new NDCs submitted contain mitigation targets for the agriculture sector,** with a focus on forestry and livestock, Parties are also significantly strengthening adaptation objectives for the sector, **emphasizing food security and nutrition (identified as a priority area in 98 percent of new NDCs with an adaptation component), crops (94 percent), livestock (77 percent) and fisheries (68 percent).**[13] This centrality to both mitigation and adaptation commitments underscores the sector's high vulnerability to climate change, as well as its potential to contribute to decarbonization, resilient livelihoods and enhanced food security. In addition, an increasing number of Parties identified synergies between adaptation and mitigation for their agriculture sector, particularly focusing on measures related to food security and nutrition, including through measures such as promoting regenerative agriculture that increase carbon sequestration and foster soil conservation. Integrating these co-benefit approaches within NDCs is essential to maximize impact, improve cost-effectiveness and make a stronger case for mobilizing the public and private finance needed to scale implementation.

Furthermore, many new NDCs are explicitly linked to sectoral policies and plans, **with 41 percent of Parties reporting legal and policy frameworks for agriculture and food security as supporting NDC implementation.**[14] This policy integration provides an important foundation for the implementation of agriculture and food systems priorities by helping to create the conditions needed to translate

commitments into concrete action. Latest analysis by UNDP reveals that around two-thirds of new NDCs submitted as of 31 December 2025 priortize agriculture and food systems for both mitigation and adaptation efforts.

Latest analysis by UNDP reveals that **over 75 percent of new NDCs submitted as of 31 December 2025 prioritize agriculture and food systems for both mitigation and adaptation efforts. While only 22 percent of new NDCs explicitly mention food loss and/or waste, 73 percent of countries reference indirect efforts** from reducing post-harvest losses and increasing organic composting practices to promoting solar-based irrigation and cold chain systems.[15] These solutions link to SDG 12.3 which aims to halve per capita global food at the retail consumer levels and reduce food losses along the production and supply chains by 2030, helping strengthen food security, climate and economic resilience, and create new industries and jobs. However, while efforts to reduce food loss and waste are climbing the political climate agenda, global progress on reaching SDG 12.3 is falling significantly short and further action to include this issue in NDCs is urgently needed.[16]

With 80 percent of new NDCs making explicit references to NAPs,[17] including how NAPs provide the basis for the NDC adaptation component, there is a growing opportunity to align resilience-building priorities across the sector and leverage integrated policy frameworks to accelerate climate action in agriculture and food systems.

78%

prioritize agriculture and food systems for mitigation and adaptation efforts

41%

reference legal and policy frameworks for agriculture and food security to support NDC implementation

22%

reference efforts to reduce food loss and waste

Photo: Ljubomir Stefanov

Cambodia

Cambodia's NDC 3.0 positions agriculture and food systems at the core of its climate resilience and sustainable-development agenda, with food systems prioritized for both adaptation and decarbonization. Proposed measures to strengthen sectoral resilience and reduce GHG emissions are comprehensive, from scaling up agroecological practices to enhancing sustainable rice straw management practices for soil conservation. Cross-sectoral integration is also explicit: community fishery livelihood targets are linked to livelihoods and ecosystems, while food-waste reduction and scaled-up composting feature in waste management. The UNDP-FAO SCALA programme supported the development of scenarios to identify enhanced adaptation and mitigation targets for crop production, livestock, agroforestry and water resource management. The programme will further support capacity-building for climate monitoring and reporting, integration of NDC 3.0 indicators into existing sectoral tracking systems, fostering of public-private partnerships and de-risking private sector investment to mobilize engagement and finance.

Somalia

Somalia's NDC 3.0 designates agriculture, livestock, fisheries and food security as central climate-resilience priorities, recognizing their critical role for livelihoods, economic development, stability and peacebuilding. The NDC 3.0 aligns proposed climate measures with sectoral policies such as the National Food and Nutrition Policy and the National Fertilizer Policy, and emphasizes adaptation-mitigation synergies, including through promotion of climate-smart agriculture practices and sustainable grazing systems. Nature-based solutions feature as priority mitigation measures for agriculture and land use for their co-benefits for biodiversity and adaptation. The agriculture sector receives the largest share of the country's adaptation budget, underscoring the commitment to resilience. Agricultural transformation is further mainstreamed in a dedicated chapter on technology development and transfer.

Chile

In its section on circular economy, Chile's NDC 3.0 highlights the importance of tackling food loss and waste – not only to prevent and reduce the loss of resources such as water, land and energy needed for food production, but also to reduce methane emissions from food decomposition in landfills. As such, the development of a national strategy to prevent and reduce food loss and waste by 2026 is included under the mitigation measures. Measures under the National Sovereignty Strategy for Food Security, such as food microbanks where food is recovered and redistributed and other food recovery programmes, also seek to make progress in reducing food loss and waste for increased food security and sovereignty.

Water resources and oceans

Water resources are a top priority in the new generation NDCs, with 94 percent of countries highlighting the sector and 68 percent including water-related quantified targets.

Action on oceans is accelerating, with almost all coastal and island countries prioritizing ocean actions in their NDCs, up from 62 percent in 2015. However, only 12 percent of all ocean actions address climate mitigation despite high potential.

Water and climate change are inextricably linked making sustainable water management central to building resilience and reducing GHG emissions. Reflecting this, water resources have been identified as a priority for climate action by nearly all countries. Among new NDCs submitted as of 31 December 2025, **94 percent highlight water resources while 68 percent include water-related quantified targets as essential to NDC implementation** – emphasizing water's essential role in adaptation given mounting climate pressures on water availability, quality and security. Water is also one of the adaptation areas most closely aligned with the SDGs, particularly SDG 6 on Clean Water and Sanitation.[18] **Water is also a key enabler for climate mitigation** as many mitigation actions require water (e.g. cooling systems for clean energy), while demand for water also increases the need for energy-intensive water pumping and can contribute to wetland degradation.[19]

94%

highlight the role of water resources in NDC implementation

68%

include quantified targets related to water resources for both mitigation and adaptation

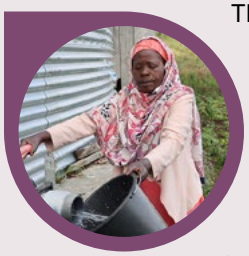
92%

of *coastal and island countries* prioritize ocean actions and investment in the blue economy with heavy focus on adaptation and resilience

Many NDCs recognize the interconnected nature of the water-energy-food nexus, with Parties integrating cross-sectoral measures to build resilience and lower emissions across all three areas. For example, NDCs emphasize measures such as integrated water resources management, water-efficient agriculture, flood and drought management, and investments in climate-resilient water infrastructure. This alignment recognizes the key role that water resources have to play in securing lives and livelihoods, key economic sectors, and ecosystems and natural resources. NDCs also identify water as an area requiring international cooperation, reflecting the transboundary nature of water resources management.[20]

Climate action for oceans and coastal zones was also increasingly prioritized in 2025 NDC submissions as marine and coastal systems face accelerating pressures from rising sea levels, warming waters, ocean acidification and intensifying storms. The new generation **NDCs reflect this urgency, with a majority of coastal and island countries (61 out of 66, or 92 percent) prioritizing ocean actions and investment in the blue economy, up from 62 percent in 2015**. Ocean-based climate actions are heavily concentrated in adaptation, and include fisheries and aquaculture resilience, marine conservation and nature-based solutions like mangrove restoration.[20] **Ocean-based climate mitigation**—including phasing out offshore oil and gas and expanding offshore renewable energy, restoring blue carbon ecosystems and decarbonizing marine transport—remains underrepresented, **only making up 12 percent of all ocean actions, despite their potential to deliver up to 35 percent of global GHG emissions reductions needed for a 1.5° C pathway**.[21]

Comoros



The island nation of Comoros launched its NDC 3.0 in September 2025, reaffirming its commitment to addressing climate threats to water insecurity. With support from UNDP and the Green Climate Fund, Comoros is strengthening the resilience of its water resources amid growing climate pressures, expanding access to safe and reliable water for communities. Through investments in climate-resilient infrastructure, improved water governance and enhanced hydrological monitoring, the initiative is helping Comoros address intensifying droughts, floods and rainfall variability. These efforts are complemented by capacity-building at national and local levels to integrate climate risk into water management and service delivery. By creating the enabling conditions for resilient water systems, UNDP is supporting Comoros to advance its long-term adaptation goals and commitment to achieving universal safe water access by 2030.

Fiji

Fiji's NDC 3.0 prioritizes ocean climate solutions, including climate-smart and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, expansion of nature-based solutions (e.g., mangrove restoration and natural seawalls for coastal resilience, restoration of blue carbon ecosystems) and sustainable management of its coastal exclusive economic zone. To support these priorities, the government issued its first Sovereign Blue Bond in 2023 to mobilize private-sector investment in ocean conservation, coastal protection and sustainable marine activities, with support from UNDP and the UK's Blue Planet Fund.

Cuba

Cuba's NDC ties climate action to preserving its environment and natural resources, with particular emphasis on its coastal ecosystems. Mangroves, which cover 70 percent of the island's coastline, along with reefs and wetlands, are vital buffers that protect human settlements, support livelihoods through fisheries and tourism, and offer mitigation co-benefits.In this regard, Cuba sees coastal ecosystem health and conservation not as side issues, but as central to both adaptation and mitigation. The new NDC reaffirms Cuba's commitment to its 2017 national plan to manage climate change (*Tarea Vida*) that prioritizes water resource management and coastal protection.

Health

Nearly all NDCs (93 percent) now include health-related references across mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage components.

69 percent of NDCs now reference air pollution – the largest environmental health threat globally.[22]

Loss and damage to health, life and health systems are increasingly addressed in NDCs. A number of countries, especially SIDS, have committed to develop more detailed policy responses to health-related losses and damages.

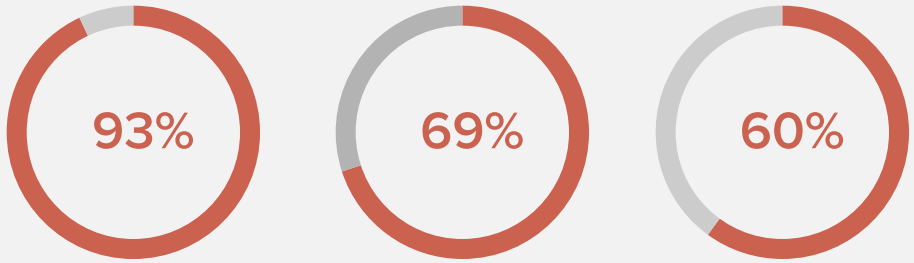
The new generation of NDCs demonstrates that health considerations have become a strong focus for national climate action. Countries acknowledge that climate change directly threatens health and well-being through intensified and more frequent extreme weather events, changed disease patterns, air pollution and mental health impacts. Analysis of new NDCs submitted as of 31 December 2025, reveals that an overwhelming majority **(93 percent) include health considerations**, with many proposing targeted activities (Figure 6). Compared to previous rounds, new NDCs provide increasingly comprehensive and detailed commitments to protect and promote the health and well-being of communities in a changing climate.

A growing number of countries include targets and activities to build **climate-resilient health systems and enhance health sector readiness** for climate-related disasters and other health impacts, including mental health crises. Plans to develop surveillance and control measures such as early warning systems, monitoring and modeling, and integrated vector-borne strategies showcase the increasing need to tackle the rise of climate-sensitive diseases such as malaria, dengue and cholera. For example, **Nigeria**'s new NDC commits to developing a national integrated climate, health and environmental early warning system by 2030, while improving the climate resilience and sustainability of health services. Loss and damage related to health and health systems are also increasingly recognized in NDCs. This is illustrated in **Saint Lucia**'s latest NDC that sets out a range of activities to reduce disaster mortality and protect vulnerable populations, including by strengthening emergency response capacities at community and national levels. **Tonga** is formulating a dedicated loss and damage policy framework, including plans to develop data systems to track climate-related impacts leading to loss and damage such as displacement, cultural heritage loss, and health impacts

NDCs increasingly acknowledge the **connection between climate change mitigation and health outcomes**. This is demonstrated by actions to decarbonize health systems and address air pollution, which is responsible for 7.9 million annual deaths with the highest burden in low- and middle-income countries.[23] As 31 December 2025, 69 percent of the new NDC submissions include a reference to air pollution or air quality, of which at least 60 percent are supported by specific implementation measures (Figure 6).

In addition, there is an **increasing focus on short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) such as black carbon**. These pollutants are harmful to health, the environment, food systems and economies, alongside intensifying global warming, and remain in the atmosphere for weeks to decades, contributing to chronic diseases like respiratory and cardiovascular conditions. Black carbon, a component of particulate matter, is referenced in 16 percent of new NDC submissions, with many countries highlighting mitigation actions through cleaner transport, energy systems and related policies.

Figure 6. References to health and air pollution



Reference to health

Reference to air quality / air pollution

Reference to implementation measures or action to improve air quality

Note: Analysis of new NDCs submitted as of 31 December 2025.

Climate-resilient and sustainable healthcare waste management systems in South Asia

Between 2022 and 2025, **Bangladesh**, **Bhutan** and the **Maldives** led the way in strengthening healthcare waste management (HCWM) systems and addressing close critical infrastructure and capacity gaps – aligned with latest NDC trends. Through a multi-country initiative led by UNDP, with support from Japan and in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), 146 energy-efficient autoclaves and waste treatment units were deployed, 18 purpose-built facilities constructed, and EVs distributed to 65 health centers. Over 1,100 health workers – 60 percent of them women – were trained in safe, climate-sensitive HCWM. Digital waste tracking systems were integrated into national platforms, ensuring transparent monitoring. The initiative advanced gender-responsive, sustainable and climate-resilient HCWM systems across South Asia.

Explore more spotlights online.

Circular economy

Circular economy approaches are increasingly recognized as important integrated solutions for delivering climate and development outcomes. Inclusion of circular economy measures increased from 28 percent in previous NDCs to 84 percent in new NDCs.

Countries are broadening circular economy approaches beyond the waste sector, with potential to unlock mitigation and adaptation progress across key sectors including energy, food and agriculture, industry and construction.

Circular economy is shifting from a marginal topic to a central element of global climate policy. This reflects a **growing recognition that transitioning to a circular economy** is crucial for tackling the 45 percent of global GHG emissions that are not addressed by the shift to renewable energy alone.[24] The importance of circular economy as a climate solution was also demonstrated by the COP30 Presidency with the conference's first-ever dedicated Circular Economy Day.

Circular economy approaches are a prime example of an integrated solution that can drive ambitious climate action, protect and restore nature and unlock new economic opportunities to advance sustainable development priorities. UNDP analysis of new NDCs submitted as of 31 December 2025 showed **84 percent make explicit references to circular economy and related approaches as part of new climate policies and measures, with 55 percent including quantified targets and measures**. This is a significant increase from the previous generation of NDCs where only 28 percent made direct reference.[25] This highlights that **countries are increasingly recognizing circular economy approaches as a key integrated approach spanning beyond the waste sector**, with potential to unlock mitigation and adaptation progress across other key sectors, including energy, food and agriculture, buildings and construction, and mining and extractive industries, among others. For example, **Nigeria**'s NDC 3.0 states that "the circular economy serves as the core implementation engine for the country's climate ambitions, translating high-level targets into concrete actions that deliver both mitigation and resilience." This is demonstrated through its circular ambition across sectors, including agriculture, manufacturing and industry, minerals, construction, infrastructure and LULUCF.

In **Peru**, the government has placed strong emphasis on circular economy in its new NDC as a strategic driver for competitiveness and sustainability, including national and sectoral (industry, water, plastics and agriculture) circular economy roadmaps. In **Australia**, the government states an ambition to double national circularity by 2035. The Circular Economy Framework is a priority under the Net-Zero Plan, aiming to improve material efficiency and reduce emissions by up to 23 percent by 2050.

84%

include explicit references to circular economy

55%

include quantified targets and measures related to circular economy

Closing the loop: From waste to resource in Ecuador

Ecuador's Ministry of Environment and Energy, with the participation of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport and UNDP, applied the UNDP/UNEP/UNFCCC "Building Circularity into NDCs – A Practical Toolbox" to identify hotpots of GHG emissions and material use in the economy. This helped prioritize the IPPU sector, specifically cement and concrete value chains, which showed measurable contributions to Ecuador's NDC targets through reduced cement consumption and strengthened circular economy sectoral strategies. The development and testing of a composite material from end-of-life tires was carried out with the Polytechnic University of Quito. It was found that, by 2035, circular construction practices could achieve cumulative GHG emissions reductions of 178 kt CO_2-eq, driven by the market introduction of the composite material, which optimizes cement use and significantly enhances its mitigation potential. Socio-economic impact assessments, value chain stakeholder mapping and regulatory, cost and scalability analyses were also conducted. Initial steps are underway to develop technical standards and update construction building codes.

Enabling frameworks for circular action in Belize and Lebanon

For circular economy measures to be designed in a just and fair manner, and implemented and monitored successfully, enabling environments are crucial. **Belize** has committed to adopting a legal and policy framework on circular economy in all sectors by 2030, including recycling targets, waste-to-energy initiatives, national campaigns and capacity-building. In **Lebanon**, legal and operational efforts to transition to a circular economy include enacting Extended Producer Responsibility legislation that will make producers financially responsible for the collection, treatment, recycling and disposal of waste. These efforts will be supported by procedures for waste monitoring and inspections, national waste databases and baseline surveys of hazardous waste sources.

Resilient and green cities

The majority of new NDCs (81 percent) feature well-developed integration of urban climate measures across key sectors, reflecting a clear political momentum to position cities as key players in national climate strategies.

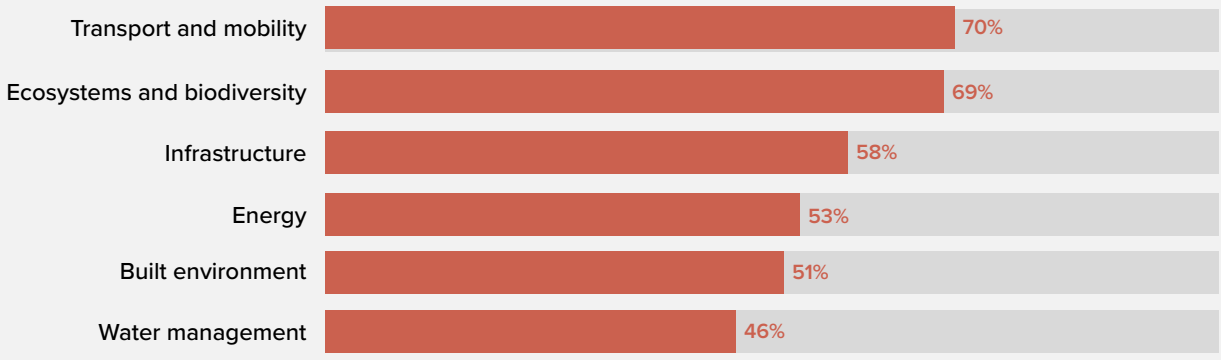
While the most common sectors for urban action include transport (70 percent), ecosystems and biodiversity (69 percent), and infrastructure (58 percent), a notable number of NDCs are reflecting urban aspects in emerging thematic priorities such as nature-based solutions (41 percent) and loss and damage (33 percent).

Data, governance and financing gaps remain significant to translate urban ambition into action, with just over 60 percent of NDCs referencing urban actors, less than 40 percent mentioning urban financing pathways, and only 4 percent providing city-level GHG emissions baselines, limiting countries' ability to plan and track urban mitigation efforts effectively.

The latest NDC submissions show a decisive political shift: countries are increasingly positioning cities as central actors in national climate strategies. A joint analysis by UN-Habitat and UNDP of new NDCs submitted as of 31 December 2025 reveals that 81 percent of submissions present well-developed urban content, in both mitigation and adaptation.[26] NDCs demonstrate stronger commitments across critical sectors such as transport and mobility, with a focus on EV mobility, BRT and metro systems, the energy sector, with a focus on renewable energy and energy-efficient urban infrastructure, including green buildings, waste management, and measures for coastal or heat resilience.

Sectoral priorities reinforce this trend across both mitigation and adaptation. For adaptation, priorities are concentrated in infrastructure, ecosystems and biodiversity, and water management, while mitigation priorities are most evident in energy, the built environment, and transport and mobility (Figure 7).

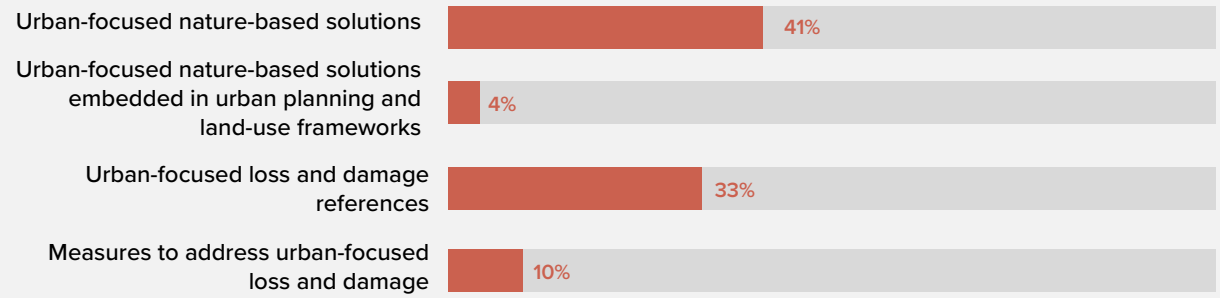
Figure 7. References in new NDCs to urban content reflected in key adaptation and mitigation sectors



Note: Analysis of new NDCs submitted as of 31 December 2025.

Emerging thematic priorities highlight both progress and potential (Figure 8). **Nature-based solutions for urban areas** appear in 41 percent of NDCs through measures such as urban greening, community parks and mangrove restoration, with benefits for heat reduction and coastal resilience, yet such measures are only partially embedded within existing urban planning and land-use frameworks. Similarly, while the majority of NDCs reference **loss and damage** at the national level, only 33 percent do so at the urban level, with the majority of them referencing water-related (floods, storms, sea level rise), heat-related (heat islands, wildfires, drought), or systemic challenges (displacement, infrastructure failure). Only a small subset (10 percent) detail measures to address these challenges, pointing to a need for stronger urban risk assessments, financing strategies, and operational mechanisms.

Figure 8. References in new NDCs to urban content reflected in key emerging themes



Note: Analysis of new NDCs submitted as of 31 December 2025.

While the majority of new NDCs reference vertical integration and multilevel governance (80 percent), urban ambition remains constrained by gaps in data and implementation readiness. A majority of NDCs lack adequate **urban GHG baseline information,** with only 4 percent providing such data, hindering progress tracking of urban contributions. On **governance and financing frameworks**, just over 60 percent clearly outline the role of cities, and nearly 40 percent mention mechanisms to support financing for urban climate action (Figure 9). These mechanisms could be strengthened by outlining costing mechanisms, timelines, delivery arrangements and clear financing pathways. While representing clear progress, these trends show that impactful urban climate action will require more robust data systems, stronger multi-level governance and targeted financing to translate ambition into delivery.

Figure 9. References of urban content in new NDCs related to enabling and implementation readiness

Note: Analysis of new NDCs submitted as of 31 December 2025.

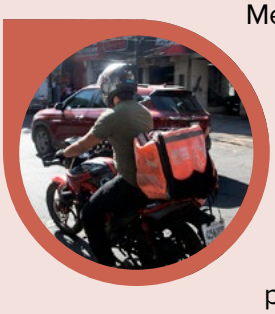
Cambodia

Cambodia's NDC 3.0 marks a major shift toward a more ambitious and implementable urban climate agenda and makes climate-resilient housing a core adaptation priority. It commits to issuing nationwide design guidelines for resilient housing by 2028. By 2035, the NDC envisions 500,000 low-income households applying climate-resilient designs, with 4,000 fully resilient homes built, including 100 in coastal zones, and resilience criteria embedded in the building permit system, with 33 percent of beneficiary households headed by women. A complementary social-protection measure explores housing support for poor and vulnerable groups, recognizing resilient housing as essential to reducing climate risk and improving well-being.

Liberia

Liberia's NDC 3.0 places coastal cities at the heart of adaptation, noting that 60 percent of Liberians live in the coastal zone, where erosion, flooding, and storm surges are intensifying. The NDC prioritizes nature-based solutions such as mangrove restoration, wetland protection and coastal ecosystem rehabilitation. It also includes a target on planting 100,000 urban trees by 2035, alongside stronger coastal defenses and climate-resilient water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) systems. This vision is advancing through the Monrovia Metropolitan Climate Resilience Project (2021–2027), led by the Environment Protection Agency with UNDP, which is already stabilizing sections of the coastline, restoring mangroves, reducing flooding in at-risk communities, and improving safety for thousands of residents through reinforced shorelines and strengthened community resilience.

Mexico



Mexico's NDC 3.0 identifies transport as the largest urban emitter, responsible for 23 percent of emissions, making urban mobility central to national decarbonization goals. Municipalities lead implementation by developing projects that cut emissions, congestion and heat risk. Key measures include "Routes of Well-being" electric mobility projects across states and cities, complemented by locally assembled EVs; new urban infrastructure for walking, cycling and public transit; expansion of clean-energy passenger lines; and the development of a decarbonization strategy for ports to curb logistics-related emissions. Accompanied by adaptation and loss and damage measures, these initiatives enable cities to turn climate commitments into visible low-carbon transitions that strengthen urban resilience.

Climate, peace and security

There is a growing recognition of climate-related peace and security links in NDCs, with references gradually increasing from 30 percent and 34 percent of first and second generation NDCs, respectively, to 41 percent in the third generation.

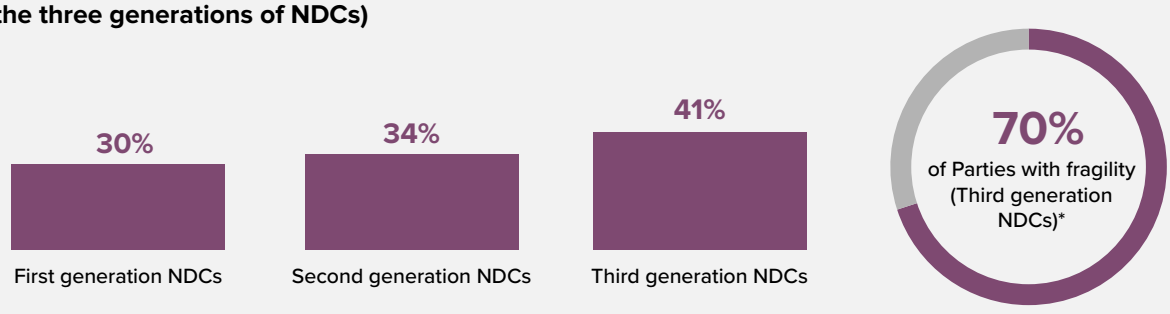
This recognition is more pronounced among Parties affected by fragility, with 70 percent of them including explicit links between climate change, peace and security in their new NDC.[27]

The critical links between climate change, peace and security are gaining momentum among Parties as evidenced with a gradual increase in references from the first to the third generation of NDCs. References were made in 30 percent and 34 percent of first and second generation NDCs respectively, and have now risen to 41 percent in third generation NDCs submitted to date.

The climate, peace and security concept has seen rising recognition in UN Security Council debates and UNFCCC COP Presidency initiatives, despite not being formally included in official UNFCCC negotiations. Earlier observations noted that references to climate change, peace and security in the first generation of NDCs were less common among developing country Parties.[28] This may be due to NDCs focusing mainly on mitigation ambition, with less detail on adaptation, which meant that information on risks, vulnerabilities and adaptation was not always included in previous NDCs. It was in these sections where references to climate-related peace and security risks had appeared in earlier NDC rounds.

However, the recognition of climate-related peace and security links as part of national peace and security policy has become more visible in the third generation NDCs, appearing in both developed and developing country NDCs. **This may reflect a gradual recognition of the growing relationship between climate, peace and security or a wider policy shift that has implications for NDC formulation and implementation.** Not surprisingly, a large share of Parties (70 percent) affected by fragility continue to reference the importance of climate, peace and security. This percentage may increase as 33 Parties affected by fragility have yet to submit their new NDCs (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Inclusion of climate-related peace and security links in new NDCs (comparison across the three generations of NDCs)



Note:* Data for Parties with fragility is only available for the third generation NDCs. Of the 63 Parties identified as affected by fragility and conflict, 30 had submitted their third round NDC to the UNFCCC as of 31 December 2025. These 30 submissions form the basis of this analysis.

Somalia

Somalia's NDC includes dedicated sections on climate-related security risks and on climate, conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding. It provides structured analysis and mainstreams conflict sensitivity across thematic areas. For example, the NDC highlights the role of water scarcity in heightening local tensions and competition over resources, particularly in drought-affected areas, and notes that investments in equitable and conflict-sensitive water management will also contribute to social cohesion, stability and peacebuilding. It also explains how prolonged conflict has weakened institutions and services and cites a low readiness that reflects limited governance, economic capacity and social systems for climate action. Somalia further frames just transition as an effort that addresses climate vulnerability, promotes inclusive economic growth and ensures equitable resource distribution while recovering from conflict and instability. It commits to an all-of-government and whole-of-society approach integrating climate action, peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

Iraq

Iraq places climate security at the centre of its strategic planning and identifies it as one of five pillars that guide its priority sectors. It highlights serious disruptions linked to shared rivers, where upstream dam construction and limited cooperation undermine water management. These pressures fuel local disputes and tensions, threatening security and stability and showing the connection between regional politics and national climate vulnerability. Iraq also identifies clear implications of climate-related sources of conflict. It reports at least 90 documented climate and environmental conflicts since 1967, largely linked to water scarcity.

Ukraine

Ukraine's NDC provides one of the most detailed assessments showing how warfare severely constrains climate ambition and implementation. It highlights extensive destruction across the energy, housing, transport, industry and agriculture sectors, which has raised emissions, disrupted data collection and reshaped the baseline for climate action. Limited access and incomplete statistics hinder scenario modelling and target setting, affecting the ability to define ambitious but achievable mitigation goals. Ukraine stresses that post-war recovery must integrate climate priorities, including renewable energy, industrial decarbonization, ecosystem restoration and green jobs, viewing the NDC as a strategic framework for green reconstruction.

Disaster risk management

A majority (76 percent) of new NDCs reference disaster risk reduction (DRR) and disaster risk management (DRM) as a priority for enhancing adaptation and building resilience.

As climate-related extreme events continue to increase and intensify around the world, countries are prioritizing strengthening climate information and early warning systems (EWS) in their new NDCs. Two-thirds (66 percent) reference EWS and 70 percent reference climate information services.

Countries are increasingly using climate and disaster risk finance and insurance products to transfer risk, protect vulnerable populations and enable faster, more resilient recovery from climate-related disasters.

DRR and DRM efforts are central to countries' NDC commitments, particularly for adaptation. UNDP analysis of new NDCs submitted as of 31 December 2025 reveals that 76 percent include DRM as a strategy for reducing risks and building resilience, while nearly 50 percent have specified quantified targets related to DRR/DRM. This inclusion demonstrates Parties' efforts to link climate- and disaster-resilient development across key sectors and to prioritize risk-informed planning.

Countries are strengthening DRR/DRM capacities and climate information for EWS as climate change intensifies extreme weather events. Many NDCs underscore the urgent need to expand multi-hazard EWS, emergency preparedness and anticipatory action. WMO's recent analysis of new NDC submissions reveals that 66 percent include references to EWS and 70 percent reference integration of climate information services.[29] This aligns with the UAE Global Framework on Climate Resilience's target on EWS and climate information services for all.[30] The robust climate data and information that is foundational for EWS is in turn shaping the content and direction of the NDCs, allowing for improved hazard, vulnerability and risk assessments and providing a foundation for credible, effective adaptation action.

76%
include DRM as a key sector

66%
reference EWS

70%
reference climate information services

Climate and disaster risk finance and insurance are increasingly used to reduce, manage and transfer climate-related risks. These tools—ranging from agricultural insurance to catastrophe bonds and regional risk-pooling mechanisms—enhance countries' capacity for rapid response, recovery and long-term resilience.[31]

Cambodia

Cambodia's NDC 3.0 places disaster and climate risk management at the center of its adaptation strategy, with a strong focus on expanding EWS capacity and access. The NDC commits to inclusive digital- and impact-based forecasting systems to reach 1.2 million poor households, as well as integration of anticipatory action into national and sectoral planning and financing, and embedding of DRR measures in subnational (commune level) development and investment plans. It also targets nationwide EWS coverage through plans to expand automated meteorological and hydrological monitoring, supported by integrated data platforms. These commitments align with Cambodia's National Early Warnings for All (EW4All) Roadmap (2025-2028), a key mechanism for implementing these NDC priorities along with its National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction 2024-2028. As a partner in the global EW4All initiative championed by the UN Secretary-General in 2022, UNDP works with the four lead partners (UNDRR, WMO, ITU and IFRC) and many other stakeholders to advance universal access to life-saving EWS. This includes work in Cambodia, where UNDP helped advance a multi-country Green Climate Fund (GCF) EW4All initiative that will help implement the Roadmap.

Ethiopia

Parties are increasingly including climate and disaster risk financing and insurance (CDRFI) solutions in their NDCs by employing diverse CDRFI financial instruments and strategies, including risk pools, catastrophe bonds and, most prominently, agriculture insurance solutions. Ethiopia's NDC is a strong example. Building on the success of CDRFI measures already in place, including a productive safety net programme and farmer microinsurance, the country's NDC stresses the need for continued national and international investment to reduce vulnerability. The government outlines planned measures including weather index insurance, sovereign risk financing to protect public assets and public-private partnerships to increase coverage of insurance products. UNDP's Insurance and Risk Finance Facility (IRRF) works with partners, donors, and financiers to help integrate CDRFI solutions into countries' long-term climate and resilience planning.

NDC INSIGHT ON

Rio Conventions synergies

New NDCs promote the connection between climate and nature, with a growing number of countries aligning efforts across the Rio Conventions.

Nearly all new NDCs (95 percent) include a direct reference to the role of nature and biodiversity in climate action, 55 percent reference National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and 36 percent explicitly emphasize a strong coherence across the three Conventions.

2026 brings another year of tri-COPs, with efforts growing to further strengthen alignment in implementation of the Rio Conventions at all levels.

Global climate change is closely interconnected with other planetary crises such as loss of biodiversity, land degradation and desertification. Each of these challenges intensifies the others with a multiplying effect. If ecosystem collapse and biodiversity loss are not addressed in parallel to climate action, we risk significantly hampering Earth's systems' ability to adapt to climate change impacts and reduce GHG emissions.

Policy coherence across the three Rio Conventions is therefore emerging as a defining feature of new NDCs, reinforcing the importance of integrated solutions to deliver the triple dividend of climate action, nature protection and sustainable development. Countries are increasingly leveraging their NDC processes to align climate, biodiversity and land protection/restoration targets, creating synergies that support NDC targets under the Paris Agreement, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets in NBSAPs, and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). This momentum was further reinforced at COP30, where the current and incoming Presidencies of the UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD released the Belém Joint Statement on the Rio Conventions reiterating their commitment to this issue.

36%

emphasize Rio Conventions coherence

55%

reference to NBSAPs

21%

reference to the LDN targets

UNDP's analysis of new NDCs submitted as of 31 December 2025 reveals the following insights:

- 95 percent include a direct reference to the role of nature and biodiversity, including through nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation.
- 36 percent explicitly emphasize the importance of strong coherence across climate, biodiversity and land under the Rio Conventions to tackle the multiple environmental crises in a synergetic way.
- 55 percent make direct reference to NBSAPs. This alignment strengthens the coherence between climate and nature policies and measures and enhances the effectiveness of planning and implementation.
- 48 percent include measures and actions that contribute to UNCCD commitments, with 21 percent more making explicit reference to the LDN targets or the National Action Programme to Combat Desertification. This demonstrates that while many NDC actions address land degradation and desertification, they present a less formal alignment with UNCCD targets.

SPOTLIGHT

Advancing Rio Conventions through the Nature Pledge in Panama

Panama's Nature Pledge is a first-of-its-kind unified framework that integrates goals on climate change action, biodiversity protection, combating desertification and plastics pollution and supporting marine and terrestrial conservation into a single, transparent national plan. These goals are mutually reinforcing and generate significant co-benefits across the Rio Conventions and beyond, including conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and greater food and water security. With a human rights-based approach, science and a common language, these synergies are articulated under Panama's Nature Pledge to guide coherent and effective actions. The document updates and replaces the 2018 NBSAP and incorporates national priorities for the period 2025–2035 in line with the CBD and adopts an integrated strategic vision to achieve LDN by 2035, fully aligned with the UNCCD and SDG15.

Explore more spotlights online.

NDC INSIGHT ON

Loss and damage

A large majority of developing countries include loss and damage elements in their new NDCs: 80 percent include an explicit reference and 42 percent dedicate a section or a chapter.

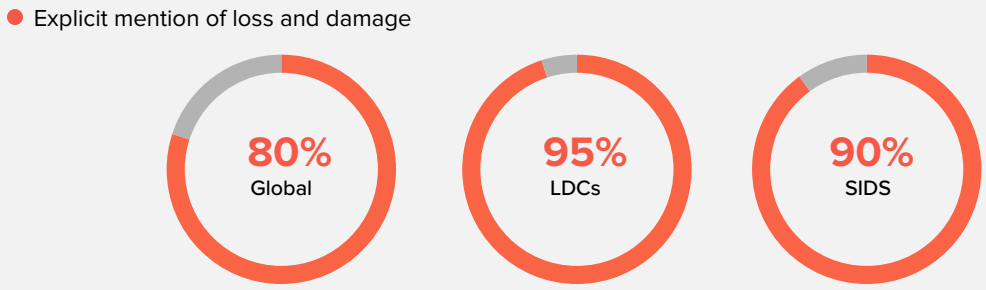
SIDS and LDCs are more likely to have loss and damage chapters with detailed targets and measures (approximately 76 percent of SIDS and 55 percent of LDCs). The need for capacity-building, assessments and finance for loss and damage are common gaps referenced to ensure delivery of prioritized actions.

Loss and damage continues to grow as a concern for developing countries, especially those that are most vulnerable to climate impacts. Of the 85 developing country third generation NDCs submitted by 31 December 2025, nearly 80 percent include explicit reference to loss and damage and approximately 42 percent include a section or chapter on loss and damage.

Given there is no agreed taxonomy, framework or guidance on loss and damage, countries have provided varying information depending on their understanding of loss and damage, with some having minimal reference to loss and damage and other NDCs having detailed and sometimes, costed measures. Across many NDCs, countries express the need for capacity-building to help government officials understand loss and damage concepts, further assessments for economic and non-economic loss and damage from both extreme weather and slow onset events, and enhanced finance for climate-related loss and damage. While some countries do include loss and damage within the adaptation component, there is growing effort to highlight addressing loss and damage or post-impact activities, such as disaster recovery, ecosystem restoration and support for those experiencing forced displacement.

SIDS and LDCs continue to include the most comprehensive loss and damage components in their NDCs. Importantly, many of these countries note that action on loss and damage is a matter of survival and climate justice. An overwhelming majority of new NDCs from SIDS and LDCs include explicit reference to loss and damage (95 percent of LDCs and 90 percent of SIDS) (Figure 11). While approximately 76 percent of SIDS and 55 percent of LDCs include a loss and damage section or chapter, demonstrating the importance of loss and damage to SIDS and LDCs.

Figure 11. Loss and damage in new NDCs of developing countries



Note: Analysis of new NDCs submitted as of 31 December 2025.

Vanuatu

Vanuatu refers to its NDC 3.0 as a "loss and damage NDC." The previous NDC included 12 commitment areas on loss and damage, the new NDC features 52 commitment areas, each individually costed. Vanuatu has developed a Loss and Damage Policy and Implementation Roadmap in 2025 with 85 policy directives and will develop its own national Loss and Damage Fund. The policy directives, along with relevant SDGs, are linked to each of the commitments on loss and damage. Notably, the NDC is aligned with the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion on climate change, a global effort led by Vanuatu.


Photo credits: UNDP Somalia

Somalia

Somalia includes a subsection on loss and damage under the "Climate Justice and Security" section of its new NDC. Somalia, both an LDC and a fragile and conflict-affected state, aims to establish structures and systems for reporting, cataloguing and quantifying direct and indirect loss and damage from all economic sectors and communities and integrate loss and damage assessments in MRV systems. The country will develop a national loss and damage financing strategy and a dedicated national loss and damage fund. There is also an effort to address slow onset climate shocks such as sea level rise and desertification, alongside extreme climate shocks in loss and damage considerations, by integrating them into national climate policies.

Mexico

Mexico has a detailed stand-alone chapter on loss and damage in the new NDC, one of the most comprehensive for a G20 country. Through this chapter, Mexico seeks to coordinate emergency and disaster response and assistance, humanitarian action, risk transfer, resilient reconstruction, climate-related mobility, and the valuation of economic and non-economic losses, noting that community fragmentation, deterioration of mental health, and loss of cultural heritage can be as devastating as collapse of physical infrastructure. Notably, Mexico seeks to develop a platform for monitoring and evaluating losses and damages, risk assessments and disaggregated data on the differentiated impact of climate change. The country will design strategies for rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction, considering post-disaster and build-back-better schemes under a human rights approach and with multistakeholder participation.

NDC INSIGHT ON

Country ownership and inclusivity

Most new NDCs (96 percent) are driving ambition, accelerating implementation and enhancing governance through meaningful integration of gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) aspects.

GESI aspects in new NDCs include advancing gender equality (88 percent), powering intergenerational equity (89 percent), upholding IPs' rights (54 percent) and strengthening disability inclusion (51 percent).

SIDS and LDCs are integrating GESI aspects more than other groups and reinforcing these efforts with strong references to human rights standards. These approaches equip them to more effectively address differentiated climate impacts and priorities of diverse segments of society.

New NDCs continue to show a recognition and understanding of inclusivity in driving climate ambition as 96 percent of countries have integrated GESI aspects as described below.

Inclusivity driving ambition

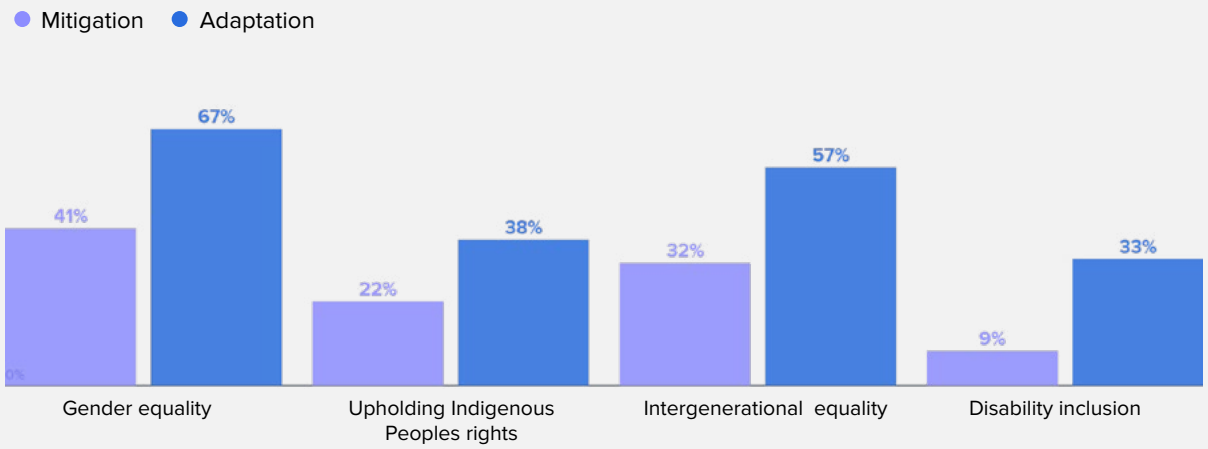
In new NDCs, countries have integrated GESI aspects across adaptation (77 percent) and mitigation (50 percent) measures and targets in a more specific manner, aiming to deliver long-term climate outcomes and benefits for all. GESI aspects are better reflected in adaptation compared to mitigation and, overwhelmingly so, among LDCs and SIDS. As developing countries often experience more severe and immediate climate impacts that directly affect people's lives, livelihoods and social systems, the links between climate change adaptation and social and gender dimensions are more evident, and thus the ways in which existing inequalities shape differentiated impacts across actors become more visible. For instance, a majority of SIDS (76 percent) and LDCs (94 percent) have championed the integration of gender equality considerations in their sectoral adaptation measures. (See Figure 12 for a detailed breakdown by GESI aspects and country groups.)

Further analysis of new NDCs reveals two critical insights:

- Progress is visible across key sectors, where gender equality, intergenerational equity and the rights of diverse populations are being recognized. Nonetheless, fewer than half of countries (41 percent) have included gender-responsive and socially inclusive indicators or referenced reporting systems, highlighting an important area for further strengthening the tracking of measures designed to address inequalities and close gender gaps.
- Several NDCs are creating avenues for actors on the frontlines—such as women, youth, IPs and LCs—to participate in programmes that increase access to resources, capacity-building and technology transfer, thereby supporting them as agents of change in climate solutions rather than solely as victims or beneficiaries.

Together, these commitments signal a gradual but meaningful change: countries are transitioning from simply recognizing inclusivity to centering GESI aspects to enhance ambition and enable effective implementation aimed at reducing inequalities, closing gender gaps and enhancing social inclusion.

Figure 12. New NDCs integrating GESI aspects in adaptation and mitigation measures



Note: Analysis of new NDCs submitted as of 31 December 2025.

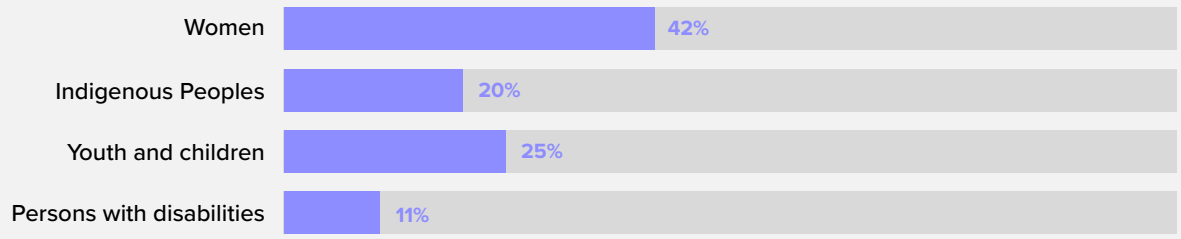
Inclusive access to finance is expanding, but gaps remain

Countries are strengthening their implementation pathways—leading to more durable and multilevel results—by adopting inclusive approaches that help unlock persistent delivery bottlenecks, particularly in access to finance. **42 percent of new NDCs have integrated measures related to gender-responsive finance and/or expanding financial access for women to support their economic empowerment in low-carbon economies.** Notably, a small cohort of countries have introduced innovative channels, such as grant-based climate finance for women's cooperatives, performance-based blended finance for Indigenous Peoples and dedicated climate innovation funds for youth that bring climate finance closer to frontline communities.

However, analyzing specific groups of actors and countries reveals a more mixed picture (Figure 13). Women were reflected more prominently for climate finance access (42 percent), while Persons with disabilities (PwD) had the lowest reflection (11 percent). Indigenous Peoples (20 percent) and youth and children (25 percent) were also very low. While some NDCs have made provisions for gender-responsive climate finance, women still remain less visible in finance commitments, which continue to prioritize broad economic and sectoral objectives. Although equity and inclusion are often recognized in principle, they are limited in their translation into costed actions or targeted financial allocations, underscoring the need for better-aligned financing systems to leave no one behind. Within the country groups, SIDS (57 percent) are the leaders in embedding gender-transformative approaches in new NDCs, through efforts such as expanding grassroots women's access to credit and supporting market access for women-led small- and medium-size enterprises in sustainable agro-processing and eco-tourism. Such actions recognize that enhanced access to

climate finance for women is critical to enabling effective implementation and delivering benefits across communities.

Figure 13. New NDCs referencing inclusive and gender-responsive access to climate finance

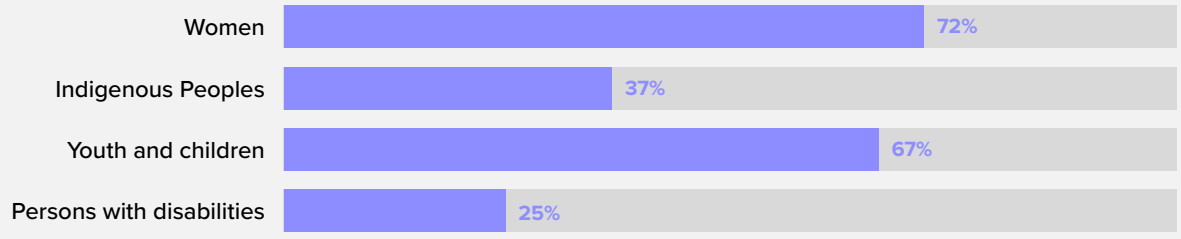


Note: Analysis of new NDCs submitted as of 31 December 2025.

There is a growing emphasis on participatory processes to drive effective governance of climate action. The majority of new NDCs (84 percent) recognize the full, genuine and equal participation of women, youth and children, Indigenous Peoples and PwDs in climate decision-making, offering an opportunity to overcome barriers that restrain the agency of individuals and communities to benefit from, and contribute to, climate action. Across new submissions, all groups of countries indicate progress in fostering women's (72 percent) and youth and children's (67 percent) participation, reflecting a growing emphasis on participatory NDC processes. As shown in Figure 14, women's participation is high across all country groups, while youth and children are moderately represented. In contrast, engagement of Indigenous Peoples (37 percent) and PWD (25 percent) remains limited and uneven, particularly in SIDS and G20 countries, highlighting persistent gaps in inclusive participation.

Around two-thirds of countries (67 percent) are strengthening coordination with non-state actors through multistakeholder mechanisms, going beyond stand-alone consultations and creating spaces for continuous involvement. This approach makes NDCs more socially grounded, strengthening ownership and reinforcing people-centered approaches.

Figure 14. New NDCs referencing participation of non-state actors to influence climate decision-making



Note: Analysis of new NDCs submitted as of 31 December 2025.

Elevating gender equality in Bangladesh

Bangladesh's NDC 3.0 reflects a step forward in ambition by elevating gender equality as a core principle across adaptation, mitigation, finance and governance. For instance, the country aims to strengthen women's resilience through measures such as gender-sensitive cyclone and flood shelters, targeted protection for climate-induced migrants, support for women farmers through land-tenure security and a Green Intervention Package for Sexual Reproductive Health Rights. Additionally, mitigation actions expand women's economic opportunities through measures such as clean-energy entrepreneurship, accessible green transport, and social protection and training to support the formalization of women waste pickers. These commitments are bolstered by women's access to finance in energy and agriculture, strengthened GESI coordination across ministries (including disabilities) and the participation of gender focal points in the national MRV institutional structure.


Photo credits: UNDP Bangladesh

Championing intergenerational equity in Liberia

Liberia's NDC 3.0 champions intergenerational equity by positioning youth as central actors in climate solutions. This is reflected in adaptation and mitigation measures committed to creating 5,000 green jobs by 2035, allocating 40 percent of agricultural finance to youth-led initiatives, expanding technical training and establishing a climate shock-responsive cash transfer programme for children. Youth leadership is further institutionalized through the Universal NDC Youth Clause, participation in climate platforms via school clubs and child parliaments and youth representation in the National Climate Change Steering Committee. Targeted access to finance will be strengthened through a planned National Climate Youth Innovation Fund by 2028. Meaningful stakeholder engagement is to be bolstered through the Ganta Declaration, reaffirmed and expanded under the NDC 3.0 process, that followed dedicated dialogues to identify and prioritize children-, youth-, gender- and disability-inclusive actions.

Photo credits: © Visión Amazonía

Upholding Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' rights and participation in Colombia

Colombia's NDC 3.0 advances a people-centered climate agenda by placing Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, and peasant communities at the heart of its vision for territorial development, while democracy, just climate finance and rural reform serve as pillars of national climate policy. Adaptation priorities—from accessible climate services and resilient land-use planning to expanded nature-based solutions—strengthen locally-led climate resilience. Long-term instruments such as Project Finance for Permanence will enhance the delivery of territorial climate solutions, while governance will be reinforced through the National Indigenous Adaptation and Mitigation Plan and the Escazú Agreement, which guarantee participation, collective rights and protections for environmental defenders.

Advancing disability inclusion in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's NDC 3.0 sets a benchmark for disability inclusion in climate action. It addresses barriers, from limited mobility to restricted access to green livelihoods, that PwDs face and embeds PwD-responsive measures for both adaptation and mitigation in key sectors. These include accessible transport systems, safer waste-management technologies, targeted support for climate-sensitive health risks, expanded green job opportunities, and an integrated loss and damage database that considers disability-disaggregated data. Notably, the NDC mandates structured participatory consultations with PwDs throughout the NDC implementation cycle through the Gender Social Action Plan and citizen platforms for SDGs to ensure they can influence climate policy-making.

NDC INSIGHT ON

SDG alignment

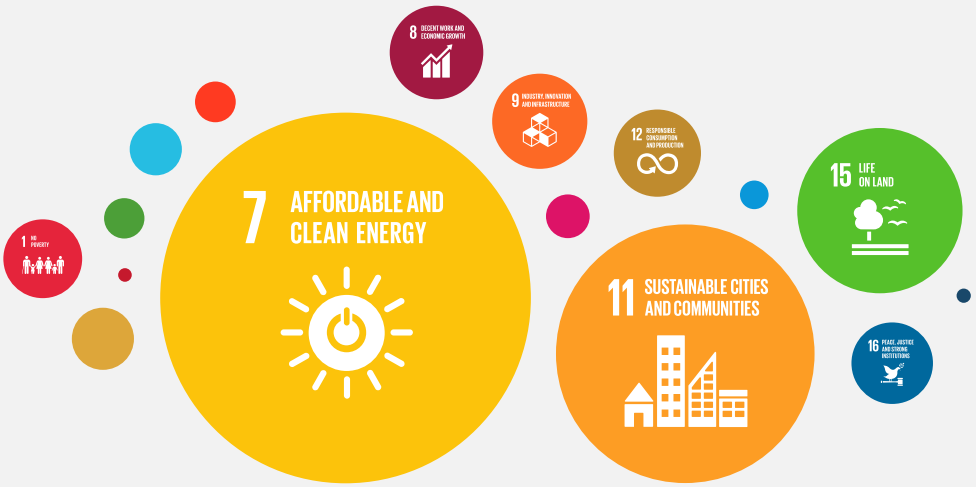
The new generation of NDCs reflect a strong alignment with the SDGs, highlighting increasing recognition by countries that climate action can be leveraged to advance social development and economic prosperity.

Almost all new NDCs (99 percent) include measures that address SDG 7 on energy, 87 percent address SDG 11 on cities and communities, and 75 percent address SDG 15 on forests and land-based ecosystems; job creation, innovation and strong institutions (SDGs 8, 9 and 16) also emerge with considerable reflection across many countries.

LDCs and SIDS demonstrate stronger climate and sustainable development linkages in their new pledges, particularly prioritizing climate policies that protect gains in poverty eradication and food and health systems resilience.

As nations update their climate commitments, certain SDGs consistently emerge in NDCs, reinforcing their intrinsic link to climate policies and measures. To help illustrate this inherent alignment, UNDP analysed new NDC submissions using the SDG Push Diagnostic tool. This custom-built analytical tool enables users to explore countries' priorities in relevant national documents through the SDG lens. Figure 15 illustrates the relative representation of each SDG in new NDCs.

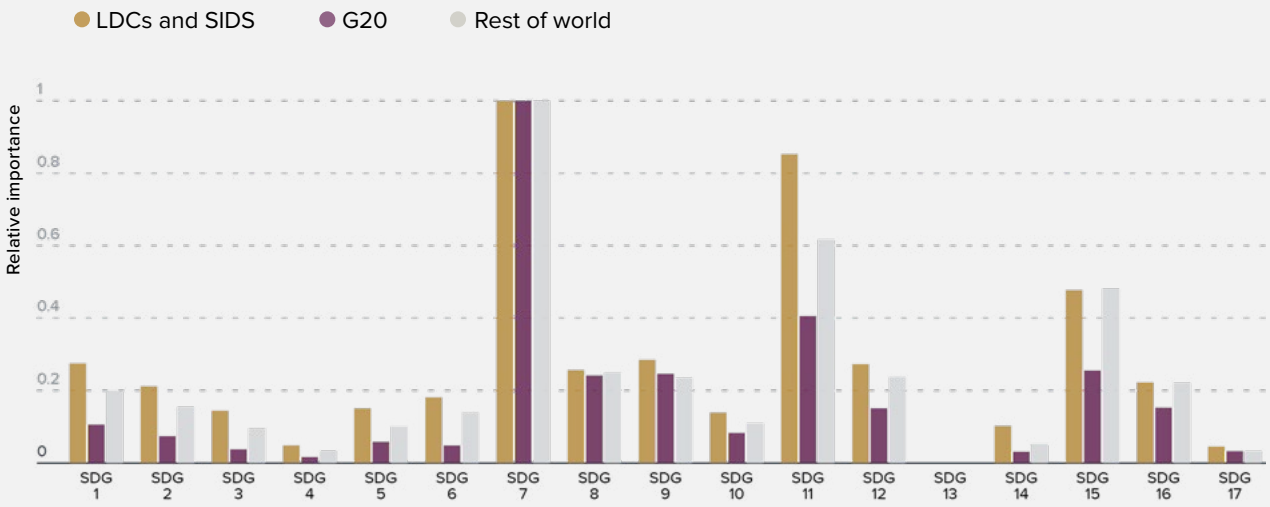
Figure 15. Overview of how SDG priorities are collectively reflected across new NDCs



Note: Analysis of new NDCs submitted as of 31 December 2025. SDG 13 has been omitted from the analysis due to its obvious conceptual overlap with the climate agenda.

Results from the analysis show that new NDCs integrate priorities across multiple SDGs. Globally, **SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), and SDG 15 (life on land) are the most frequently reflected priorities—with 99 percent, 87 percent and 75 percent of new NDCs, respectively, placing strong alignment of these areas.** These likely represent key areas of focus for mitigation in the energy sector and adaptation in urban and environmental sectors, as well as priorities that countries place on acknowledging the mitigation co-benefits from biodiversity protection and conservation—all areas that are fundamental to poverty reduction.

Figure 16. Comparison of how SDG priorities are reflected in new NDCs across different country groups



Note: Analysis of new NDCs submitted as of 31 December 2025. Comparison of the frequencies for SDG-related keywords, standardised for a scale 0-1, where 1 signifies the most prominently represented SDG in the document and 0 represents the lowest possible score. SDG 13 is omitted from the analysis due to it obvious conceptual overlap with the climate agenda.

A closer look at the results by country typology shows that, as a group, **LDCs and SIDS integrate sustainable development priorities more strongly in their submissions than the G20 or the rest of the world (Figure 16).** Reducing poverty (SDG 1), addressing hunger (SDG 2), achieving better health outcomes (SDG 3) and developing basic water services (SDG 6) are more likely to be reflected in these group's NDCs, compared to those from the G20 and the rest of the world. New NDCs from LDCs and SIDS also place substantial focus on sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11)—with 93 percent of NDCs exhibiting medium or high priority.

Over three-quarters (76 percent) of LDCs and SIDS place strong emphasis on protecting biodiversity on land (SDG 15), likely a reflection of the importance of land-based ecosystems to livelihoods in these countries. Sustainable production and consumption (SDG 12) also appears as a stronger priority for the LDCs, SIDS and other countries compared to the G20 group. Notably, job creation (SDG 8) emerges as a consistent priority across all groups, showing the importance of just transitions as countries embark on decarbonization pathways. In addition, SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure) and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) are also reflected in the new generations of NDCs, indicating a growing recognition of the economic, social and governance dimensions necessary for effective climate action and vice versa.

Guinea

Guinea's new NDC frames poverty eradication (SDG 1) as a cross-cutting priority which aligns climate action with efforts to improve access to basic services (water, sanitation, electricity, health and education) and to expand social protection through cash transfers, school meals and health insurance. Through policies to strengthen social inclusion and risk-transfer mechanisms, Guinea aims to protect poor and vulnerable households from climate shocks that erode assets and disrupt livelihoods.


Photo credits:UNDP Guinea

Bolivia

In Bolivia, agriculture is one of the most vulnerable sectors due to the increased frequency of extreme weather events such as frosts, hailstorms, droughts and floods. To protect food systems, with connections to SDG 2, Bolivia has committed to improve the adaptive capacity of at least 400,000 producers, many of whom are smallholders in highly vulnerable rural areas. By scaling up regenerative livestock farming, diversifying production, and conserving one million hectares of agricultural soils, Bolivia aims to safeguard livelihoods and the hard-earned gains in reducing undernourishment and protecting small-scale producer productivity and income (SDG 2.3).

Micronesia

Micronesia's NDC prioritizes SDG 14 by expanding marine protected areas, safeguarding coral reefs and sustaining nearshore fisheries essential for food security. Coastal adaptation actions—such as mangrove restoration and natural shoreline protection—further reinforce ocean health while strengthening community resilience to storm surges and erosion.

NDC INSIGHT ON

Just transition

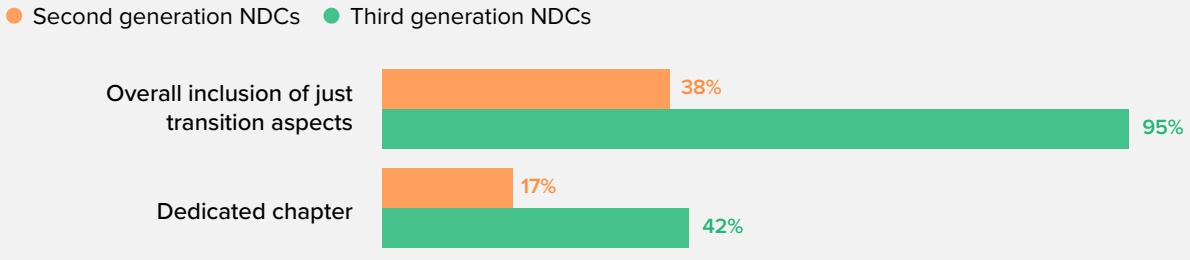
Nearly all new NDCs (95 percent) integrate just transition as a core consideration, recognizing opportunities for climate action to drive socio-economic development.

Just transition has evolved from an abstract reference into concrete actions, with nearly all countries introducing specific measures to deliver a just transition (94 percent), with many backed by clear indicators to monitor and report on the socio-economic and equity impact of climate action (60 percent).

A remarkable development in the new round of NDCs is the deeper integration of just transition within these submissions. UNDP analysis shows that more than 90 percent of new NDCs now incorporate just transition, a significant increase from the previous cycle where only 38 percent included such elements (Figure 17). Countries have also further concretized just transition in their NDCs, with 42 percent now including a dedicated chapter that sets out specific measures to maximize opportunities while minimizing potential losses from the green transition. This represents a significant increase from 17 percent in previous NDCs.

The growing recognition of just transition in new NDCs demonstrates that it is now central to climate policy and underscores that impacts on people, society and the economy are critical for securing the social license for climate action. It confirms that the way countries make the transition matters, and that they should strive to green their economies through pathways and approaches that reinforce equality and inclusivity while creating socio-economic development opportunities for all. This trend from countries' NDCs reinforces ongoing conversations under the UNFCCC, including the COP30 outcome where Parties agreed to continue the Just Transition Work Programme as a multi-year process and, for the first time, to establish a Just Transition Mechanism. This aims to support Parties in moving just transition from dialogue to implementation through cooperation, capacity-building, access to support and the sharing of good practices. Given the increasing recognition of just transition in NDCs, countries' priorities and targets can provide a guide for advancing this agenda.

Figure 17. Level of just transition integration in second and third generation NDCs

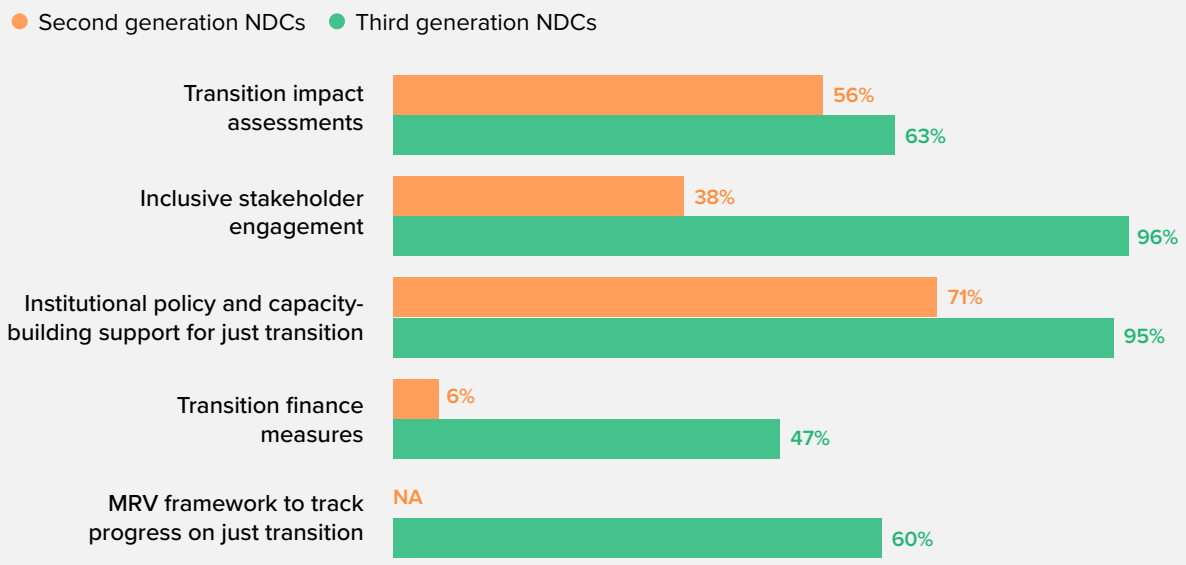


Note: Analysis of new NDCs submitted as of 31 December 2025.

To gain a deeper understanding of the extent to which just transition is integrated into NDCs, the analysis of new NDCs was conducted across five key areas identified by UNDP as essential building blocks for defining and delivering a just transition pathway. The analysis, in Figure 18 below, reveals that:

- 63 percent of countries used qualitative and quantitative analysis to assess the socio-economic impacts of climate policies, with evidence on co-benefits and distributional impacts informing transition pathways.
- Inclusive stakeholder engagement features in 96 percent of new NDCs, up from 38 percent in second generation NDCs, and isoften supported by dedicated spaces and institutional frameworks such as social dialogue.
- 95 percent of countries go beyond simply stating just transition commitments by including concrete measures to advance just and equitable NDCs implementation, including roadmaps, policies, social protection and capacity building.
- An increasing share of countries applied a socio-economic lens to climate finance, including benefit-sharing mechanisms, safeguards and targeted support to ensure that transition costs and benefits are distributed fairly across society, rising from 6 percent in second NDCs to 47 percent in third NDCs.
- Around 60 percent of countries integrated just transition lenses into MRV considerations through indicators on socio-economic and equity outcomes, as well as the systematic integration of just transition metrics into MRV systems.

Figure 18. Comparison of just transition inclusion in second and third generation NDCs across five essential building blocks for just transition



Note: Analysis of new NDCs submitted as of 31 December 2025.

UNDP, together with our partners through the Climate Promise, has supported 72 countries in advancing efforts on just transition, structured around these five building blocks. As countries shift from ambition to action, **embedding just transition into NDC implementation processes will be essential to ensure climate action is fair, inclusive and transformative.**

The Kyrgyz Republic


Photo: UNDP Kyrgystan/ Samat Barataliev

The new NDC of the Kyrgyz Republic places just transition at the core of its climate strategy, framing it as essential to a fair and inclusive shift to a low-carbon economy. It sets out a just transition roadmap to 2035, supported by legal and institutional reforms, social protection measures and employment support, including training for green skills. The NDC and its mitigation pathway were informed by a thorough assessment of impacts on gross domestic product, employment and household energy costs. On transition finance, the NDC combines national budgets, international climate finance and blended and results-based instruments to mobilize private capital, including green financial products for small- and medium-sized enterprises and agriculture. Strong social and environmental safeguards are embedded to protect vulnerable groups and ensure accountability through an integrated MRV system.

Vanuatu

Vanuatu's NDC 3.0 demonstrates leadership in embedding just transition through a whole-of-society and rights-based approach. The NDC is grounded in extensive community consultations, integrating Indigenous knowledge, traditional governance and strong national coordination through the National Advisory Board. It prioritizes gender equality, human rights and intergenerational equity, supported by mandatory ex-ante and ex-post impact assessments. Vanuatu advances decent work creation in clean energy, agriculture and resilient infrastructure, alongside climate-proofed education and gender-responsive training. Its MRV system tracks social impacts on women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and displaced communities. A robust national climate finance platform ensures inclusive, transparent and community-driven climate investments.

Côte d'Ivoire

Côte d'Ivoire's NDC 3.0 embeds just transition as a core principle, recognizing that climate action will reshape production, consumption and labour markets. It also positions social justice as essential for economic success. A dedicated just transition chapter outlines principles, strategy, cross-cutting measures and governance, supported by broad consultations with local authorities, youth, women, the private sector and civil society. The NDC advances social dialogue mechanisms, gender equality and territorial implementation, while promoting green jobs, capacity-building, social protection, and robust national and local MRV systems to track socio-economic co-benefits.

NDCS INSIGHT ON

Transparency

Transparency is being institutionalized in most countries. New NDCs reflect that 88 percent of developing country Parties are establishing permanent national transparency systems.

Nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of developing countries recognize that robust transparency systems strengthen investment readiness. By transforming credible data into verifiable market signals, nations are lowering investor risk to unlock new capital flows like green bonds and carbon markets.

The "digital divide" remains the primary hurdle, as 68 percent of developing countries indicated data, information and technological systems as their top demand for support. LDCs and SIDS face greater challenges and higher demand for support. Turning transparency readiness into action requires significantly scaled-up support for digital infrastructure and closing the finance gap.

Transparency lies at the heart of the Paris Agreement's success. By tracking progress and sharing information, transparency builds mutual trust and ensures that every Party contributes to the global climate effort in an open, fair, equitable and accountable way. The Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement links reporting and policy in a continuous cycle of improvement. It is a strategic enabler for evidence-based policy making, climate finance access and ambition raising.

Analysis of new NDCs for the 2025 submission cycle from developing countries as of 31 December 2025, reveals that:

- 88 percent provide information that the country's transparency systems are either in place or under development; 12 percent indicate plans to establish transparency systems in the near future.
- 94 percent make their enhanced transparency efforts conditional on receiving external support.
- 64 percent recognize that robust transparency systems can strengthen investment readiness and unlock access to finance, signaling an important shift from viewing transparency as merely a reporting mechanism to a catalyst for investment.
- There is a decisive shift in adaptation tracking, where many countries are transitioning from qualitative descriptions to rigorous, quantifiable indicator frameworks that measure precise resilience outcomes across ecosystems and sectors.

Readiness and support needs

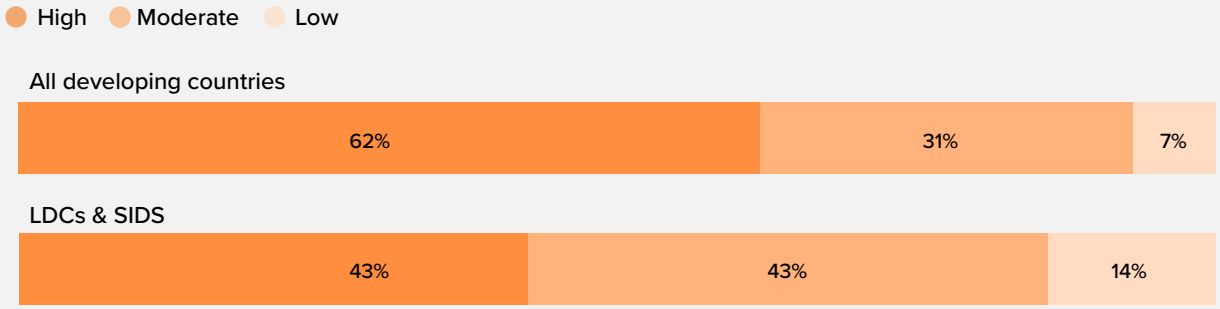
The overall trend points toward growing institutional and legal readiness for transparency (Figure 19).[32] 62 percent of developing countries have established high readiness in tracking NDC targets while around

31 percent are showing moderate systems or existing initiatives. Only seven percent remain at a low level, characterized by initial awareness, no operational systems or are in an early planning phase.

Analysis of support needs reveals that data and information and technological (IT) system development is the most critical gap, expressed by 68 percent of all developing countries (Figure 20). This is followed closely by capacity-building (65 percent) and financial support (57 percent). There is a shift from countries having a basic institutional setup to developing a robust digital infrastructure alongside human capital to maintain these systems.

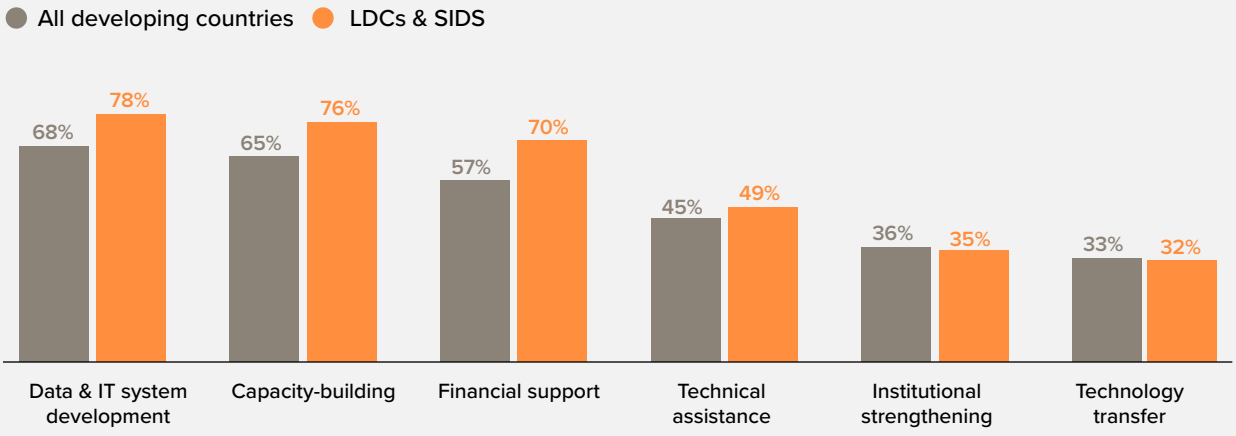
This urgency is mirrored and amplified within the LDC and SIDS group. Their priorities align with the broader trend but at a higher intensity, with 78 percent identifying data and IT systems as a key need and 76 percent and 70 percent requiring capacity-building and financial support, respectively. This reflects the resource constraints these climate vulnerable nations face in operationalizing their transparency frameworks.

Figure 19. Readiness level for transparency of new NDCs from developing countries



Note: Analysis of new NDCs submitted as of 31 December 2025.

Figure 20. Categories of support needs on transparency in new NDCs from developing countries



Note: Analysis of new NDCs submitted as of 31 December 2025.

UNDP and the UN system support is helping to ensure that transparency systems are not just compliant, but catalytic—driving smarter decisions, attracting finance and accelerating the implementation of the Paris Agreement for a more resilient, sustainable future. Below spotlights how UNDP and the UN system support have been materialized in countries.

Institutionalizing transparency through national systems

Countries are shifting from project-based monitoring to permanent national transparency systems. **Brazil**'s new DataClima+ platform represents a global benchmark, integrating GHG inventories with investment tracking to inform decision-making. **Côte d'Ivoire** has developed a comprehensive set of indicators for mitigation and adaptation with two online portals and is decentralizing transparency via Territorial Climate Plans and has established a Carbon Market Bureau (by a decree on August 2024) to integrate MRV data with carbon finance mechanisms to valorize emission reductions. **Cabo Verde** has built a robust national climate transparency system (SNTC), allowing it to prepare its first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) entirely without external financing support. This milestone underscores the country's consolidated capacity to manage data systems independently. By embedding transparency mandates across all relevant ministries and centralizing data and information systems, these nations are ensuring progress tracking is continuous and policy-relevant, building the accountability needed to drive domestic action and international trust.


Photo credits: UNDP Mauritius

Transparency enabling blue investment in SIDS

SIDS are demonstrating how transparency can unlock investment in ocean-based climate with some countries pioneering the use of blue-carbon MRV systems, tracking the climate value of mangroves, seagrasses and coastal ecosystems. **The Bahamas** is pioneering the use of blue carbon natural assets data to verify blue carbon credits and debt-for-nature swaps. **Mauritius** is operationalizing a blue carbon registry to track mangrove value, while **Seychelles** has integrated digital blue economy indicators into its national tracking tools, the **policies and measures (PaM) framework**, to quantify the impact of its Blue Economy roadmap. These efforts transform ecological stewardship into measurable assets, positioning SIDS not just as vulnerable nations, but as innovators using credible data to attract results-based finance and build economic resilience.

NDC INSIGHT ON

Investibility

Most new NDCs offer stronger signals for investment than previous ones. Nearly three-quarters have included investment-ready targets and policy measures, and over half report that institutional frameworks are in place to enable access and delivery of finance for NDC implementation.

One in three countries have started translating ambition into a financing strategy or an investment plan, while more than half are addressing financing enablers. SIDS and LDCs, however, still face greater gaps requiring dedicated support.

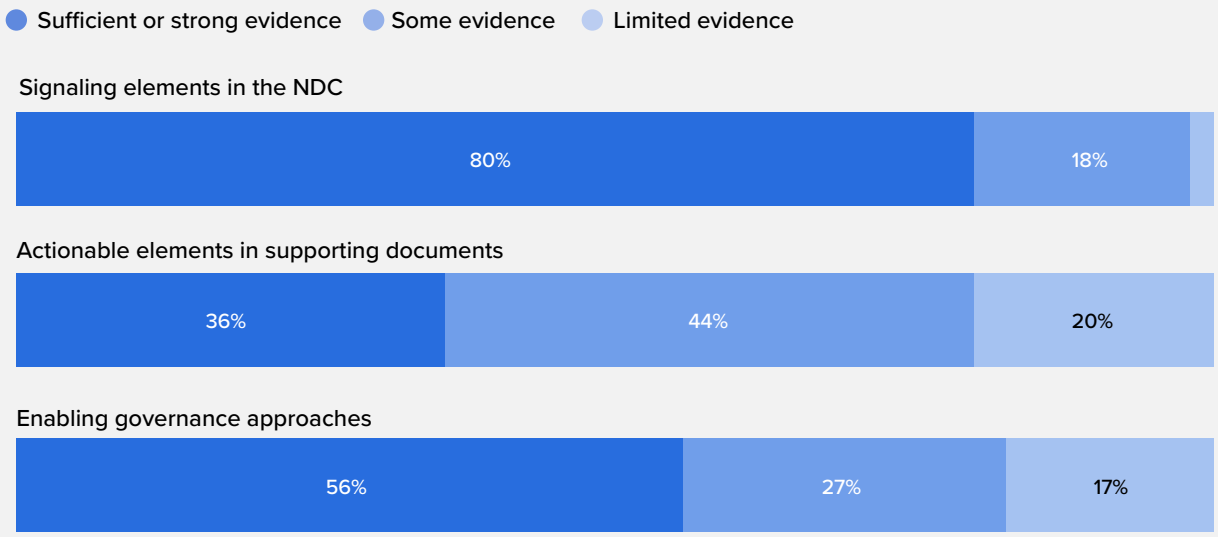
Countries are increasingly using both established and emerging instruments to unlock finance for NDC targets, including carbon market mechanisms. 71 percent of countries indicated they plan to use carbon market mechanisms under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

There is a growing momentum to leverage NDCs as vehicles for investment in climate action and sustainable development. The **majority of developing countries (71 percent) specify total costs of their new NDCs and 56 percent include detailed costings for sectors or measures.** Analysing new NDCs submitted by developing countries against three dimensions of "investability"[33] as defined in the 2025 OECD-UNDP report 'Investing in Climate for Growth and Development' reveals that (Figure 21):

- The majority of new NDCs (80 percent) have strong evidence of **signalling elements** for the ambition and expected outcomes of the NDCs, such as: quantified targets, sectoral priorities and sectoral targets for climate action, high-level cost estimates, funding gaps or economic modelling, supporting policy frameworks and alignment with development plans or LT-LEDS to strengthen policy coherence and political ownership.
- One in three NDCs (36 percent) show strong evidence of **actionable elements**, such as: an investment or implementation plan, a financing strategy or framework, sectoral action plans, or national and sectoral development plans that embed NDC targets and measures. At the same time, nearly half (44 percent) indicate some evidence elements related to finance "enablers" (rather than a specific strategy or action plan), indicating an area that requires more support to develop the level of detail required to ensure targets can be turned into action.
- Over half of new NDCs show strong evidence of **enabling governance approaches**, which include dedicated climate units, inter-governmental coordination mechanisms, multi-level dialogues and working groups, inclusive stakeholder consultations and country and matchmaking platforms/ partnerships that can help provide the appropriate enabling environment for countries to access, direct and deliver finance for NDC implementation.

- **SIDS and LDCs still face persistent challenges in turning their climate ambition into investible action**. SIDS' new NDCs are performing well against the signaling elements and enabling governance approaches (outperforming developing countries as a whole with 86 percent and 62 percent respectively), but lag behind in demonstrating evidence on actionable elements, for which one in three SIDS still lack evidence. At the same time, LDCs slightly underperformed across all three dimensions compared to developing countries as a whole.

Figure 21. Analysis of new NDCs from developing countries against three dimensions of investibility



Note: Analysis iof new NDCs from developing countries submitted as of 31 December 2025.

Furthermore, countries are increasingly implementing NDCs through domestic fiscal, policy, and regulatory measures, including green finance taxonomies and carbon budget tagging. They are also exploring public-private partnerships and country platforms to mobilize climate finance and align NDCs with national development priorities. **There is also a growing number of countries indicating use of carbon markets to achieve their NDC targets.** Carbon markets have the potential to unlock private sector investment, helping to bridge the NDC financing gap in developing countries. Carbon markets can take different forms. Under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, cooperative approaches (Article 6.2) and mechanisms (Article 6.4) enable countries to transact Internationally Transfer Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs). In compliance carbon markets, governments can use carbon pricing instruments, including Emissions Trading Systems (ETS) and carbon taxes, while voluntary carbon markets are governed by independent standards that issue carbon credits used by private companies to meet non-mandatory climate goals. Analysis of the new NDCs indicates a majority of countries **(71 percent) have included references to one of these approaches and/or mechanisms.**

Moldova

Moldova's NDC 3.0 includes a strong focus on climate finance. It outlines costs of NDC measures, and identifies existing sources of domestic and external funding. Moreover, it analyzes financial incentives and policies to attract additional domestic and external resources for energy efficiency, soil conservation and waste management. The NDC is also well anchored institutionally, with the Ministry of Finance as the responsible entity for NDC financing. Potential financial reforms are outlined to help mobilize green transformational finance in the context of Moldova's Sustainable Finance Roadmap (2024-28) for SDG implementation. The NDC calls for mainstreaming climate change considerations into national financial management systems and tagging climate-related expenditures in national budgets.

Rwanda

Rwanda's economy-wide new NDC with detailed mitigation and adaptation measures, is estimated to cost US$12 billion through 2035, including $7 billion for adaptation and $5 billion for mitigation. The country plans to secure funding through public-private partnerships, international climate funds and integration of climate finance into national and local budgets, supported by initiatives such as the Rwanda Climate Finance Partnership, Ireme Invest Facility, IMF's Resilience and Sustainability Facility and Intego, which is designed specifically for Rwanda's public sector to achieve NDC goals. The NDC 3.0 calls for full alignment with district development strategies to ensure climate finance is harmonized across all government levels. To support this, Rwanda has introduced green budget taxonomy and launched a climate budget tagging system embedded in all national budget entities. It has also deployed a national carbon registry and satellite-enabled MRV system for real-time data to support implementation, transparency and access to high-integrity carbon markets.

Indonesia

Indonesia's NDC 3.0 outlines national expenditures for climate activities that occurred between 2016 and 2023 to highlight the country's commitment to climate action. It highlights that Indonesia received over $1.7 billion of financial support to address mitigation, adaptation and cross-cutting actions. The country has institutionalized climate-related expenditures through its climate budget tagging system, covering both mitigation and adaptation across multiple sectoral ministries. At the subnational level, provincial governments have increasingly assumed an important role in delivering climate finance, reflecting the country's gradual shift towards a decentralized model of climate governance. Contributions for NDC implementation through multilateral channels such as the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Readiness Fund, the Forest Investment Program Fund, UN-REDD and the BioCarbon Fund, are complemented by domestic efforts, including tax incentives. UNDP played a significant role in supporting the development of the Green Sukuk. The Global Green Sukuk was worth $6 billion, and most green sukuk funds were allocated to wastewater management and climate change resilience.

Section 3

Delivering on the Promise - UN system support

Delivering on the Promise - UN system support

In April 2024, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres mobilized the UN system to assist developing countries in preparing and submitting economy-wide and ambitious NDCs. This system-wide effort was organized by leveraging the Climate Promise, UNDP's flagship programme which has supported 90 percent of all developing countries in preparing and implementing previous rounds of NDCs. For this third generation of NDCs, Climate Promise 2025 sought to harness the full breadth of UN expertise, anchored in UNDP's existing Climate Promise architecture. To do so, Climate Promise 2025 employed existing coordination mechanisms across the UN, including the UN Resident Coordinator system, UN Country Teams UNCT and the UN system's regional and global platforms and technical expertise.

Key achievements to date:

Overall, the UN supported 107 countries (5 G20, 32 LDC, 23 SIDS) in the formulation effort of new NDCs. With the convening leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator and the technical leadership of UNDP, UNCTs worked with governments to define integrated policies for climate mitigation and adaptation spanning key sectors such as energy, transport, agriculture, waste management, buildings and others. Under this arrangement, 30 UN entities combined forces at all levels, and most countries benefitted from the expertise of multiple agencies. In many cases, UN entities that did not have in-country presence were able to bring specific expertise to governments in support of more ambitious NDCs. Building on the existing UN cooperation with the government, as well as the efforts of the wider ecosystem of non-UN actors, UNCTs supported governments to establish more ambitious, higher quality and investment-ready NDCs. This included advocating for leaving no one behind and advancing gender equality and social inclusion.

Of the new NDC submissions as of 31 December 2025, 61 were supported by the UN system under the Climate Promise 2025. This represents 71 percent of all developing country submissions to date. The contribution of the UN system is evident in many new NDCs, with their sector-wide emphasis, high level of stakeholder inclusion, co-benefits for economic and social development, and greater credibility and investibility.

Photo: UNDP Nigeria/Ibeneme

AFRICA

Nigeria

In Nigeria, the UNCT delivered an integrated support offer to the government for finalising the NDC 3.0. Ten agencies participated: UNDP, FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women, and WHO. The Resident Coordinator ensured strategic and effective cross-agency and government coordination, while UNDP provided leadership in policy integration, climate finance and transparency. Technical assistance focused on four areas: policy and financial integration (including climate finance and carbon market frameworks), just transition and social equity (mainstreaming gender and inclusion), sectoral resilience (health, water, agriculture, forestry), and transparency (robust MRV systems).

This support raised Nigeria's NDC ambition and quality, introducing sectoral targets such as the elimination of routine gas flaring by 2030 and solarisation of 2,000 health facilities, alongside integrating complex sectors like health and labour to enhance adaptation commitments. By supporting plans for a national Carbon Registry, the UNCT contributed to institutionalising robust MRV systems and enhancing NDC credibility. Development of carbon finance frameworks and a national climate finance taxonomy helped transform the NDC into a strategic investment blueprint, providing policy certainty to attract private and international climate finance for Nigeria's conditional targets.

This experience has highlighted the criticality of cross-sectoral collaboration and subnational capacity for enhancing ambition, accountability, and investibility. The coordinated 'whole-of-UN' approach ensured engagement with all 36 State Governments for effective local implementation, and elevated social equity into finance efforts. Strengthening data access and evidence-based decision-making was crucial for setting realistic targets, while stakeholder consultations, involving around 50,000 people, ensured broad ownership and alignment with development goals.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Cambodia

Cambodia's new NDC benefited from a comprehensive UN offer of support that included UNDP, FAO, UNCDF, UNICEF, WHO, WFP, UNESCO, OHCHR, UNESCAP, UN Women, UN Habitat and ILO. The UNCT mobilized expertise and resources to support the government in mapping and convening key stakeholders across whole-of-society, reviewing implementation status of the previous NDC, developing recommendations and sectoral analyses for mitigation and adaptation actions, estimating emissions reductions and refining targets, scenario planning, costing, developing a financing strategy and capacity-building.

This collaborative support enhanced the ambition and credibility of Cambodia's NDC 3.0, notably introducing economy-wide GHG reduction targets and prioritizing social inclusion, gender equality and resilience for vulnerable groups. New sectors such as social services and food systems were included, linking to the national social and economic development agenda. The UN's coordinated approach also laid the groundwork for a strategic financing strategy to mobilize the required $32.2 billion for implementation.

Key lessons learned include the importance of early stocktaking, unified approaches and frequent coordination of support among the UN system and development partners, inclusive stakeholder engagement, systematic tracking of state and non-state actor participation, and securing financial commitments to support implementation.

Photo: UNDP Cambodia/Kimheang

ARAB STATES

Lebanon

Lebanon's third NDC exemplifies the effectiveness of a unified UN System Offer. The UNCT, including UNDP, ILO, UNIDO, FAO, UN-Habitat, and UNICEF, provided comprehensive support to the Ministry of Environment to address climate change. The Resident Coordinator facilitated high-level engagement and coordinated agency collaboration, while UNDP steered technical drafting and stakeholder consultations. This approach led to the launch of the Climate Package, including the NDC 3.0, Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) and NAP. Technical assistance covered just transition, energy, gender and social inclusion, youth empowerment, climate education, agro-biodiversity, land and water conservation, health, waste management, forestry, water management, urban planning, transparency, institutional strengthening, climate finance, and adaptation.

The coordinated support elevated climate change as a national priority, raising Lebanon's GHG reduction targets to 22 percent (unconditional) and 33 percent (conditional) by 2035, and committing to 30 percent share of renewable electricity. The NDC now includes adaptation and social inclusion, highlighting youth, women, and human security. The Lebanon Green Investment Facility (LGIF) was established to mobilize finance, and new institutional structures were created to ensure credibility, investment, and sustained progress.

The experience has highlighted the importance of joint planning, multisectoral engagement, integrating economic perspectives, and consistent follow-up. Several best practices have emerged, including robust coordination, sustained technical assistance, and the establishment of dedicated institutional structures, such as a Directorate General for Climate and Partnerships. This structured collaboration enabled progress despite crisis conditions, setting a regional benchmark for integrated climate and development strategies that balance ambition with implementation capacity.

Photo: UNDP Lebanon

Photo: UNDP Uzbekistan

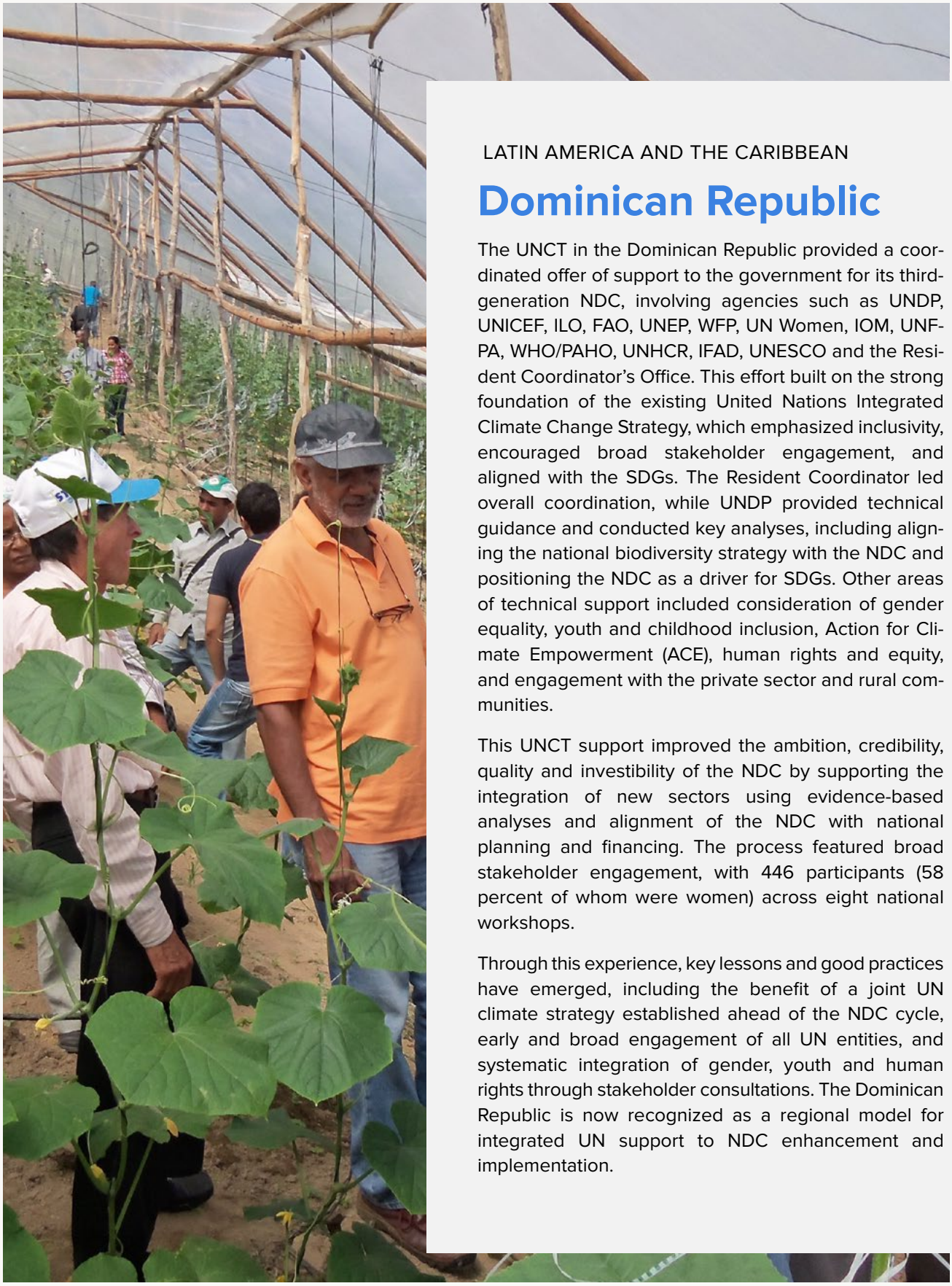
EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Uzbekistan

The UNCT, primarily UNDP, FAO, UNECE, UNICEF, WHO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, and UNFPA worked alongside with other key development partners to support Uzbekistan in formulating its third-generation NDC. The Resident Coordinator's Office, UNDP, and the Climate Centre co-led the national dialogue on climate ambition, engaging sectoral ministries, academia and civil society. Technical support focused on transparency, just transition, gender equality, youth engagement, nature–climate linkages, and circular economy opportunities.

This coordinated UNCT support enhanced Uzbekistan's NDC by expanding ambition to include both mitigation and adaptation across sectors such as agriculture, water, health, and social protection, especially targeting vulnerable regions. The credibility and transparency of the NDC were strengthened via institutionalized MRV systems and BTRs, aligned with UNFCCC standards and the GST. Detailed cost estimates have made the NDC investment-ready, supporting climate finance mobilization and linking actions to SDGs and national priorities.

This effort has underscored the value of a joint UN–government workplan for coherent delivery, the importance of interministerial working groups, and innovative use of AI and geospatial tools for nature-based solutions. Uzbekistan's experience highlights the effectiveness of unified, multisectoral UNCT support in driving credible, ambitious, and investible climate strategies.



LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Dominican Republic

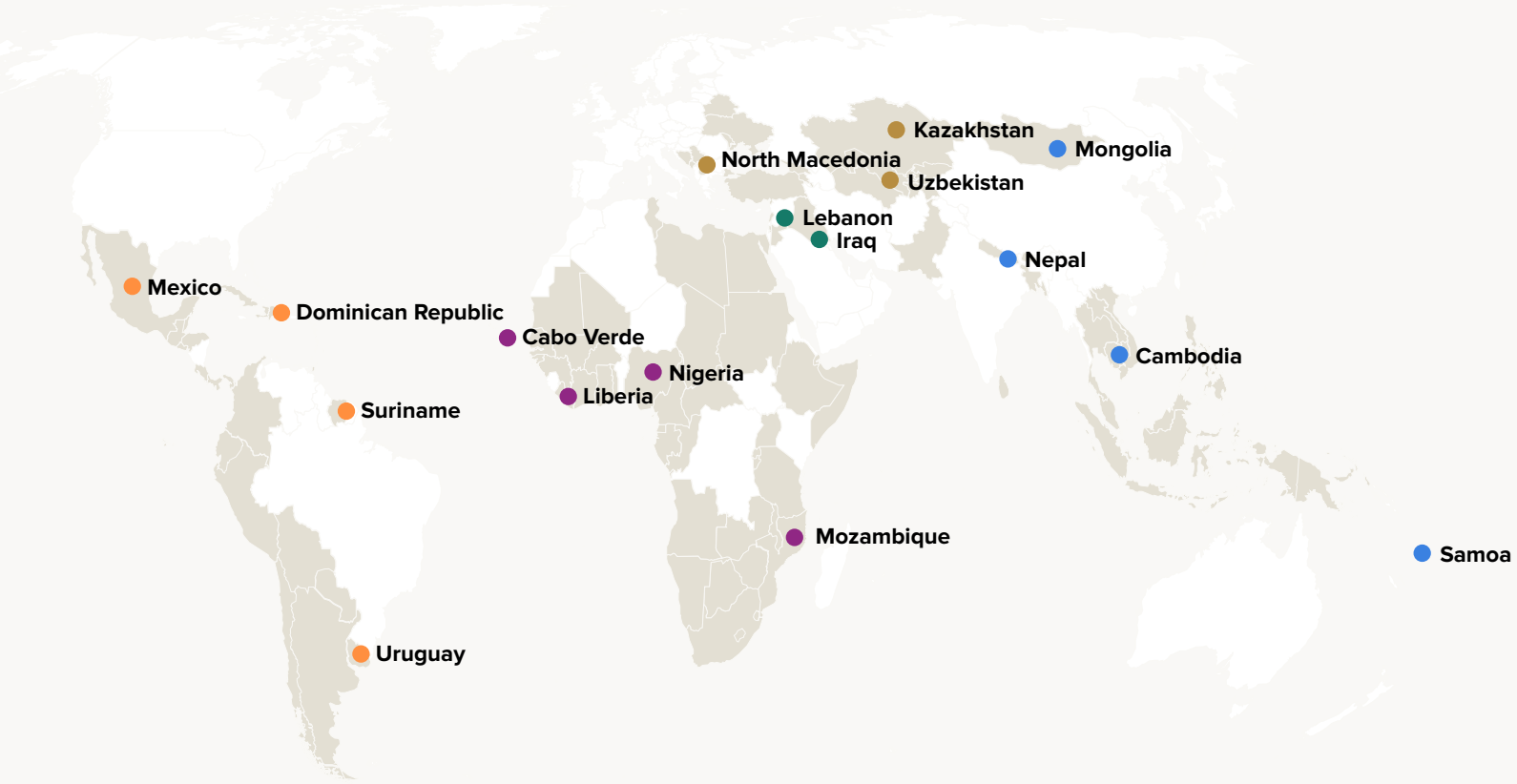
The UNCT in the Dominican Republic provided a coordinated offer of support to the government for its third-generation NDC, involving agencies such as UNDP, UNICEF, ILO, FAO, UNEP, WFP, UN Women, IOM, UNFPA, WHO/PAHO, UNHCR, IFAD, UNESCO and the Resident Coordinator's Office. This effort built on the strong foundation of the existing United Nations Integrated Climate Change Strategy, which emphasized inclusivity, encouraged broad stakeholder engagement, and aligned with the SDGs. The Resident Coordinator led overall coordination, while UNDP provided technical guidance and conducted key analyses, including aligning the national biodiversity strategy with the NDC and positioning the NDC as a driver for SDGs. Other areas of technical support included consideration of gender equality, youth and childhood inclusion, Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE), human rights and equity, and engagement with the private sector and rural communities.

This UNCT support improved the ambition, credibility, quality and investibility of the NDC by supporting the integration of new sectors using evidence-based analyses and alignment of the NDC with national planning and financing. The process featured broad stakeholder engagement, with 446 participants (58 percent of whom were women) across eight national workshops.

Through this experience, key lessons and good practices have emerged, including the benefit of a joint UN climate strategy established ahead of the NDC cycle, early and broad engagement of all UN entities, and systematic integration of gender, youth and human rights through stakeholder consultations. The Dominican Republic is now recognized as a regional model for integrated UN support to NDC enhancement and implementation.

Photo: UNDP Dominican Republic

Explore more examples from the following countries online.



Section 4

From ambition to action

From ambition to action

The trends are clear. The latest round of NDCs are stronger than ever – advancing on ambition and of much higher quality, more robust and more investment-ready. Countries are demonstrating their readiness to take forward ambitious climate action and have put in place the strong foundations to do so. In addition, the countries that have advanced NDCs the furthest have shown direct relevance to national and local development priorities, embedding NDC targets into national and sectoral planning and budgeting. The implementation of NDCs is an opportunity for SDG acceleration.

The extensive data analytics and experiences on NDC design and implementation generated by UNDP's Climate Promise, as presented throughout this NDC Insights Series provides intelligence on priorities, trends and needs. Based on this, **four evidence-based levers** have been identified for accelerating NDC implementation and strengthening national NDC infrastructures to ensure sustained, empowered and resourced efforts for climate action across government and society. These levers are:

1. **Policy** – strengthening coherence and institutional frameworks;
2. **Finance** – mobilizing and attracting investment in NDC targets;
3. **Solutions** – accelerating delivery and scaling up proven action across sectors; and
4. **Engagement** – whole-of-society and country ownership.

Two key cross-cutting accelerators have also proven to help deliver impact: the principle of leaving no-one behind, and leveraging new digital and artificial intelligence (AI) technologies can be a key accelerator for implementation.

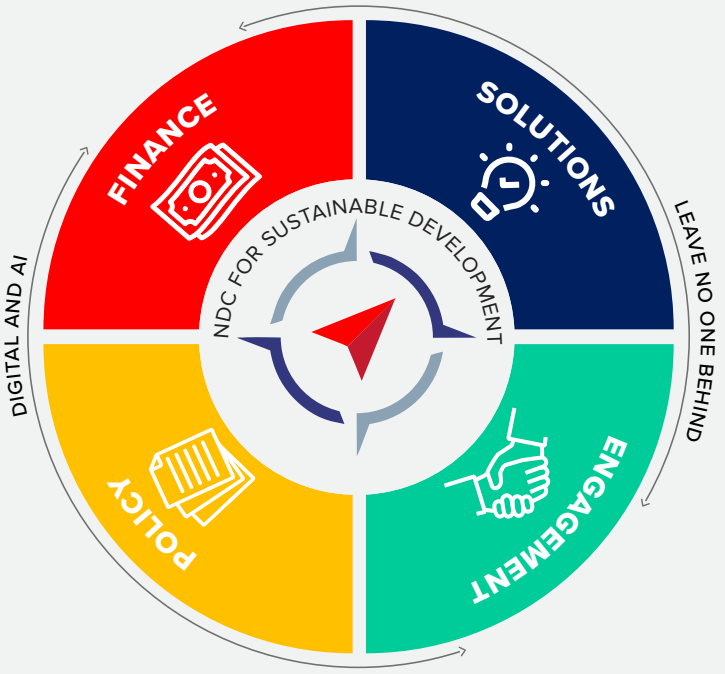
Photo: UNDP Namibia

At the opening of the Leaders's Summit at COP30, the UN Secretary-General reiterated the steadfast commitment of the UN system to support countries to advance their NDCs and deliver the Paris Agreement goals. He also directed UNDP to continue to work across the UN system to support developing countries to accelerate implementation of the NDCs, leveraging the architecture of the Climate Promise.

To fulfill this directive, UNDP, in close collaboration with the COP30 Presidency and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, has developed "**Climate Promise: Forward**". It responds to the overwhelming demand from developing countries for support on NDC implementation and provides a framework for continued UN cooperation based on the four evidence-based levers outlined above. Climate Promise: Forward will be rolled out in 2026 and support the COP30 Presidency's Global Implementation Accelerator and Belem Mission to 1.5°C.

Climate Promise: Forward

Accelerating climate policy, finance and solutions to build the economies and societies of the future



Supporting countries to shift from ambition to action, the Climate Promise: Forward will continue to leverage the convening leadership of the Resident Coordinator and the NDC technical leadership of UNDP, and will be embedded into existing UN coordination mechanisms under the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and Country Programmes. It will bring together the ecosystem of UN support on NDCs in-country, alongside other partners—from multilateral development banks, development finance institutions and bilateral donors to civil society and private actors—in close coordination with the NDC Partnership and its members.

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All pictures that do not have a photo credit listed are credited to UNDP.

Endnotes

[1] The 128 Parties are: Andorra, Angola, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, European Union, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea (Republic of), Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Niue, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tonga, Türkiye Tuvalu, United Kingdom, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe. The UNFCCC tracks new NDC submissions in the 2025 cycle on a dedicated NDC 3.0 page (updated as of 12 January 2026).

[2] World Resource Institute's Climate Watch Historical GHG Emissions 2021.

[3] 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. This guidance further underscored the urgency of halving global GHG emissions by 2030 and accelerating the transition toward net zero by mid-century.

[4] Including both absolute and business-as-usual targets.

[5] Remaining investments were directed towards power grids ($359 billion), energy efficiency ($346 billion) and electric vehicles ($763 billion) (IRENA, 2025).

[6] This section was produced in partnership with E3G, an independent think tank working to deliver a safe climate for all. For more information, see E3G's analysis and tracking of global stocktake energy commitments in newly submitted NDCs.

[7] IEA (2025). Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Energy Data Explorer (Version: Last updated 22 Oct 2025).

[8] UNFCCC (2023). Outcome of the first global stocktake, decision 2/CMA5, paragraph 28(g).

[9] The analysis is updated from the joint UNIDO-UNDP report: From Ambition to Action: How Countries Are Advancing Industry in their NDCs.

[10] World Resource Institute (2025). State of Climate Action Report 2025.

[11] FAO (2025). From Farms to COP30: Can the world's climate plans deliver on food?

[12] UNFCCC (2023). Outcome of the first global stocktake, decision 2/CMA5, paragraph 9(b).

[13] UNFCCC (2025). NDC Synthesis Report 2025.

[14] UNFCCC (2025). NDC Synthesis Report 2025.

[15] UNDP's analysis of new NDCs submitted as of 31 December 2025.

[16] Champions 12.3 (2025). SDG Target 12.3 on Food Loss and Waste: 2025 Progress Report.

[17] see Adaptation section.

[18] UNFCCC (2025). NDC Synthesis Report.

[19] UN Water (2024). Analytical Brief on Water for Climate Mitigation.

[20] UNFCCC (2025). NDC Synthesis Report.

[21] Khan, et. al. (2025). The State of Ocean-Based Climate Action in 2025 Nationally Determined Contributions: A Preliminary Update.

[22] Lancet (2024). Global burden and strength of evidence for 88 risk factors in 204 countries and 811 subnational locations, 1990–2021: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021.

[23] Health Effects Institute (2025). State Of Global Air 2025: A Report on Air Pollution and Its Role in the World's Leading Causes of Death.

[24] Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2021). Completing the picture: How the circular economy tackles climate change.

[25] UNFCCC (2023). NDC Synthesis Report.

[26] See also: Urban content in NDC 3.0: A global snapshot for COP30, by UN-Habitat, which provides a snapshot into the data from 67 NDCs published by 15 October 2025. An updated version is set to be released in January 2026, which will analyze 101 NDCs (representing 128 Parties) for the 2025 submission cycle published by 31 December 2025 and a full analysis of the NDC 3.0 dataset will be published at the 13th World Urban Forum (WUF13), in May 2026.

[27] Fragility contexts in this brief refer to the 61 Parties in high or extreme levels of fragility under the OECD multidimensional fragility framework (OECD, 2025), and an additional two Parties that appear among the top 35 most fragile contexts in the Fund for Peace's Fragile States Index (Fund for Peace, 2024). This is used only as a reference point for the analysis and does not imply any labelling of Parties.

[28] UNDP (2020). A typology and analysis of climate-related security risks in the first round Nationally Determined Contributions.

[29] WMO (2026). Background analysis - Mentions of Early Warning Systems & Climate Information Services in NDC 3.0. (internal, unpublished). The analysis covers Parties with NDC 3.0 submissions listed on the UNFCCC NDC 3.0 website as of 22 December 2025. Data to be incorporated into the WMO Climate Services Dashboard.

[30] UNFCCC (2023). Outcome of the first global stocktake, decision 2/CMA5, paragraph 10 (a).

[31] UNDP (2025). Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance (CDRFI) in National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions.

[32] For this analysis, "Readiness" is assessed on a 1–5 scale to translate the narrative content of NDCs into quantifiable data, assessing the maturity of transparency systems based on three key pillars: institutional arrangements, MRV/M&E systems, and defined indicators: i) Low (Levels 1–2): Indicates initial awareness or early planning. NDCs in this category either make no reference to tracking systems or express only an intention to develop them, with no operational structures or mechanisms currently described. ii) Moderate (Level 3): Indicates partial operationalization. These NDCs describe existing initiatives, such as ad-hoc data collection or stand-alone GHG inventories, but lack full integration. Institutional responsibilities may be mentioned but are often not fully implemented or coordinated across sectors. iii) High (Levels 4–5): Indicates established to fully functional systems. These NDCs describe operational tracking frameworks with clearly defined roles and responsibilities. At the highest level (Level 5), this includes comprehensive institutionalization, regular reporting cycles, quality assurance procedures, and clear linkages between data systems and national policy-making.

[33] The three dimensions are: 1) Signaling elements in the NDC (set ambition and expected outcomes, including quantified targets, sectoral priorities, cost estimates, funding gaps, aligned policy frameworks, and regulatory measures like carbon pricing or clean energy incentives to guide climate finance); 2) Actionable elements in supporting documents (translate NDC targets into concrete, investable plans through implementation and investment plans, financing strategies, sectoral and adaptation action plans, and climate budgeting frameworks); 3) Enabling governance approaches (mechanisms and processes that create the conditions for NDC implementation through coordination, accountability, and stakeholder engagement.). See more details in OECD-UNDP (2025). Investing in Climate for Growth and Development.

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