

# UNDP Climate Promise Progress Report

APRIL 2022



# Contents

**01**

PG 4

**Executive Summary**

**02**

PG 6

**Climate Promise  
Results Snapshot  
to Date**

**03**

PG 10

**NDC Submission,  
Ambition, and  
Quality**

<b>NDC Submission Status</b>	11
<b>NDC Ambition</b>	12
<b>NDC Quality</b>	18

## UN Disclaimer

The views expressed in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations, including the UN Development Programme, or UN Member States.

## Acknowledgements

This is a regular global progress report prepared under the UNDP's flagship initiative The Climate Promise.

## About UNDP's Climate Promise

UNDP's Climate Promise is the largest global offer on NDC support, covering over 120 countries and territories, representing 80% of all developing countries globally – including 40 least developed countries, 28 small island developing states, and 14 high emitters – to enhance their Nationally Determined Contributions under the global Paris Agreement. Delivered in collaboration with a wide variety of partners, it is the world's largest offer of support for the enhancement of climate pledges. Learn more at [climatepromise.undp.org](https://climatepromise.undp.org) and follow at [@UNDPClimate](https://twitter.com/UNDPClimate).

UNDP is the leading United Nations organization fighting to end the injustice of poverty, inequality, and climate change. Working with our broad network of experts and partners in 170 countries, we help nations to build integrated, lasting solutions for people and planet.

Learn more at [undp.org](https://undp.org) or follow at [@UNDP](https://twitter.com/UNDP).

Copyright ©UNDP 2022. All rights reserved. One United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA

Cover photo: ©UNDP Cook Islands

**04**

PG 26

**Advancing NDC  
Implementation —  
Progress to Date**

<b>Strengthening Policies, Institutions and Capacities</b>	27
<b>Financing and Investment</b>	31
<b>Transparency and MRV</b>	33
<b>Mainstreaming &amp; Aligning with Development Agendas, Including the SDGs</b>	35
<b>Societal Ownership and Inclusivity</b>	37
<b>Partnerships</b>	40
<b>Advocacy, Knowledge, and Communications</b>	43

**05**

PG 46

**Lessons Learned  
and Emerging  
Needs**

<b>Lessons Learned for NDC Enhancement</b>	47
<b>Priority Areas for Advancing NDC Implementation</b>	49
<b>Emerging Opportunities: Just Transition</b>	50
<b>Net-Zero Pathways</b>	52
<b>Focus: UNDP's Moonshot Initiative</b>	58

**06**

PG 60

**From Pledge  
to Impact**



Supported by:



based on a decision of the German Bundestag



From the People of Japan



# 01

## Executive Summary



**As the global landscape has shifted in the last weeks and months, the interconnectedness of the crises we face has become painfully apparent** - from the impacts of climate change to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, to varying instability around the world, including most recently the war in Ukraine. Rising costs of food and fuel, financial volatility, and complex global supply chain reconfigurations have vast implications for a country's immediate and long-term sustainable development pathways.

**However, in this time of transition, multilateralism and the Paris Agreement have an immense role to play.** UNDP's experience with the Climate Promise has demonstrated that Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) can be powerful tools in helping to define sustainable development priorities through inclusive and whole-of-society processes.

**UNDP's Climate Promise remains the largest global offer of NDC support, covering over 120 countries and territories. As of 31 March 2022, 94 Climate Promise countries have submitted revised NDCs, representing 22.21% of global emissions and 84% of developing countries.** Among the 94 Climate Promise submissions, 91% have demonstrated increase in mitigation ambition and 96% have enhanced adaptation.

**The quality of NDCs is equally as important as ambition, with higher quality helping to ensure stronger and more robust implementation.** Analysis shows that second-generation NDCs are often of higher quality and more inclusive. However, finance at scale remains a key hurdle for developing countries, impacting the feasibility of implementation.

**Thus far, second-generation NDCs have adopted more inclusive approaches and reflect a broader scope of society.** For example, 96% of Climate Promise countries' NDCs include references to women's empowerment and/or gender equality, as compared to 48% in the first generation NDCs.

**Partnerships – within the UN system and beyond – continue to be at the heart of the Climate Promise support.** UNDP is engaged with over 35 partners at national, regional, and global levels to deliver

coordinated and joint support to countries. This includes leveraging the coordinating platform of the NDC Partnership as one of its largest implementing partners

**UNDP continues to collaborate closely with key investors as the Climate Promise scales up support on NDC implementation.** This includes both longstanding partners such as Germany, the EU, Sweden, Spain and Italy, as well as new supporters such as Japan, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Iceland, and Portugal.

**Advocacy, knowledge, and communications continues to be a central part of the Climate Promise.** More than 26 blogs, 20 photo essays and 25 reports have been published. A new [Climate Promise website](#) was launched at COP26, and an advocacy initiative, "[Dear World Leaders](#)." The flagship 2021 NDC Global Outlook report, [The State of Climate Ambition](#), reflected on progress made under the Paris Agreement and what ambition looks like for different countries around the world.

**Looking toward COP27 in Egypt, NDCs offer unique, politically backed blueprints for investments in key engines of sustainable development that are needed now more than ever.** UNDP is leveraging the Climate Promise in collaboration with our network of partners to advance NDC implementation and help countries turn their climate pledges into action and demonstrate progress toward the Paris Agreement at this critical time.

**"[UNDP's] support was really integral to making COP26 a success. On-going support and technical expertise from UNDP will be essential in helping countries implement their climate plans and meet their new commitments they made in Glasgow."**

Tom Woodroffe, the UK's ECOSOC Ambassador  
at UNDP's Executive Board Meeting in Feb. 2022.



# 02

# Climate Promise Results Snapshot to Date



OVER  
**90%**

increased **mitigation** ambition, 100% include energy

**96%**

increased **adaptation** ambition, many link to NAPs

**96%**

included **gender** considerations with around 60% including specific gender-related targets and measures

**97%**

included **youth** considerations, with around 60% including specific youth-related targets and measures

As of 31 March 2022, 94 Climate Promise countries submitted revised NDCs, representing over 22% of global emissions and 84% of all developing country submissions.

**NDCs are of higher quality with better data, detailed costing, and linked to development and sectoral planning.** For example, 110 countries undertook assessments and analyses of baselines and scenarios, target reviews, and updates in priority sectors.

UNDP is already working with countries to put in place the right policies and enabling environments to accelerate NDC implementation.

## **90** countries are establishing and/or strengthening policies, institutions, and capacities for effective NDC implementation

- 45 countries developed National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and related planning and capacity building processes for adaptation
- 35 countries advanced the formulation of NDC implementation roadmaps and strategies
- 20 countries developed new and/or strengthened existing climate policies and legislation

## **87** countries are identifying and mobilizing resources to realize NDC targets

- 60 countries developed financing strategies, roadmaps, or assessments for budget and finance frameworks
- 20 countries began developing innovative finance tools, such as green bonds and carbon pricing
- 14 countries strengthened policy, regulation, and advocacy on climate investment for NDC implementation, especially from the private sector

## **81** countries are advancing systems to track, monitor, and report on climate action

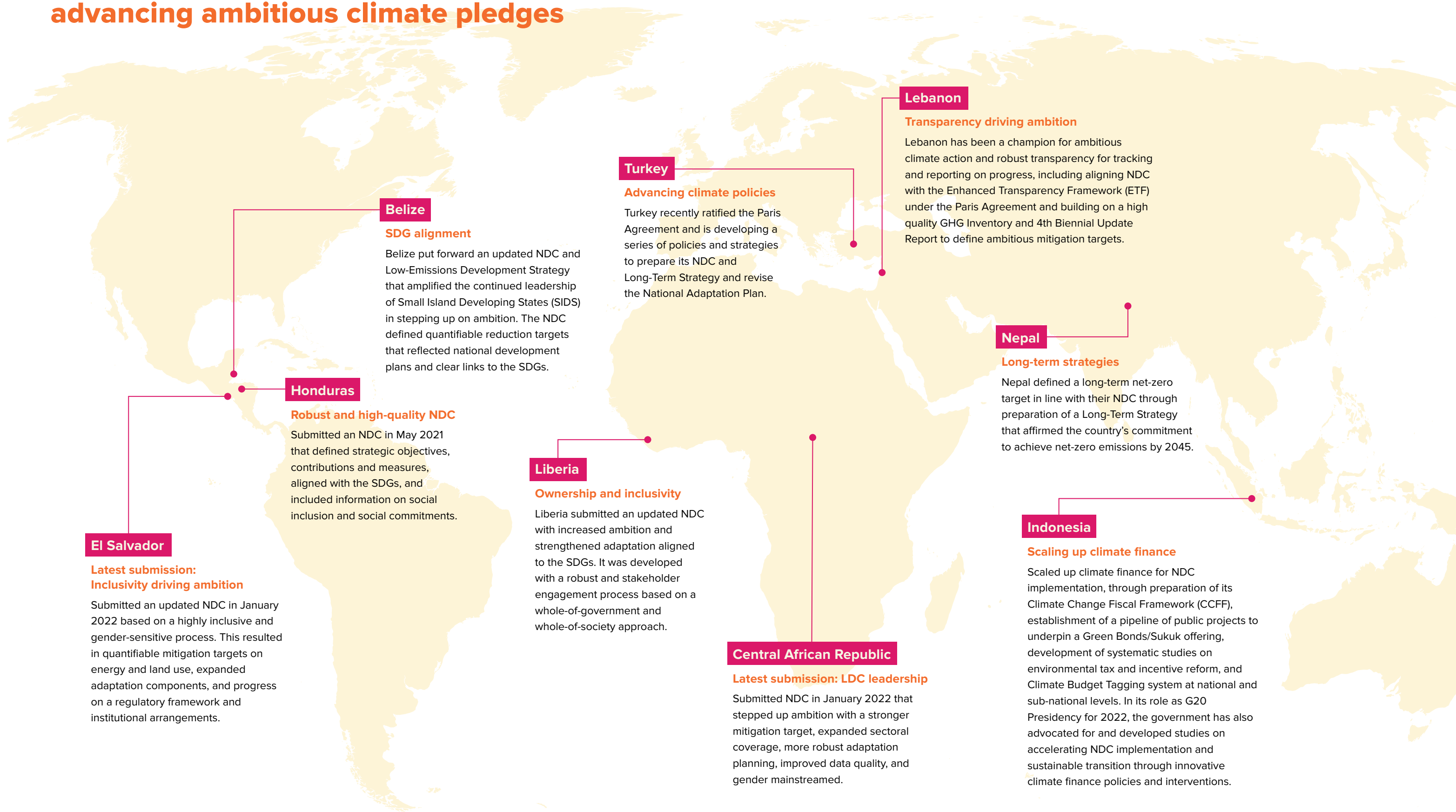
- 40 countries built and improving their GHG inventory systems
- 60 countries built and/or updated Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems.
- 10 countries developed financial tracking and budget tagging mechanisms

## **60** countries are aligning and mainstreaming NDC priorities and measures into development plans and strategies, including with the SDG processes

- 40 countries built a strong link between NDCs and SDGs
- 35 countries integrated NDC targets into national, subnational or sectoral development plans



# How countries around the world are advancing ambitious climate pledges



## El Salvador

### Latest submission: Inclusivity driving ambition

Submitted an updated NDC in January 2022 based on a highly inclusive and gender-sensitive process. This resulted in quantifiable mitigation targets on energy and land use, expanded adaptation components, and progress on a regulatory framework and institutional arrangements.

## Honduras

### Robust and high-quality NDC

Submitted an NDC in May 2021 that defined strategic objectives, contributions and measures, aligned with the SDGs, and included information on social inclusion and social commitments.

## Belize

### SDG alignment

Belize put forward an updated NDC and Low-Emissions Development Strategy that amplified the continued leadership of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in stepping up on ambition. The NDC defined quantifiable reduction targets that reflected national development plans and clear links to the SDGs.

## Turkey

### Advancing climate policies

Turkey recently ratified the Paris Agreement and is developing a series of policies and strategies to prepare its NDC and Long-Term Strategy and revise the National Adaptation Plan.

## Lebanon

### Transparency driving ambition

Lebanon has been a champion for ambitious climate action and robust transparency for tracking and reporting on progress, including aligning NDC with the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement and building on a high quality GHG Inventory and 4th Biennial Update Report to define ambitious mitigation targets.

## Nepal

### Long-term strategies

Nepal defined a long-term net-zero target in line with their NDC through preparation of a Long-Term Strategy that affirmed the country's commitment to achieve net-zero emissions by 2045.

## Liberia

### Ownership and inclusivity

Liberia submitted an updated NDC with increased ambition and strengthened adaptation aligned to the SDGs. It was developed with a robust and stakeholder engagement process based on a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

## Central African Republic

### Latest submission: LDC leadership

Submitted NDC in January 2022 that stepped up ambition with a stronger mitigation target, expanded sectoral coverage, more robust adaptation planning, improved data quality, and gender mainstreamed.

## Indonesia

### Scaling up climate finance

Scaled up climate finance for NDC implementation, through preparation of its Climate Change Fiscal Framework (CCFF), establishment of a pipeline of public projects to underpin a Green Bonds/Sukuk offering, development of systematic studies on environmental tax and incentive reform, and Climate Budget Tagging system at national and sub-national levels. In its role as G20 Presidency for 2022, the government has also advocated for and developed studies on accelerating NDC implementation and sustainable transition through innovative climate finance policies and interventions.



# 03

## NDC Submission, Ambition, and Quality



UNDP’s Climate Promise is the largest global offer on NDC support, covering over 120 countries and territories, representing 80% of all developing countries globally. The Climate Promise support has contributed significantly towards the global momentum of enhancing quality and increased ambition of NDCs.

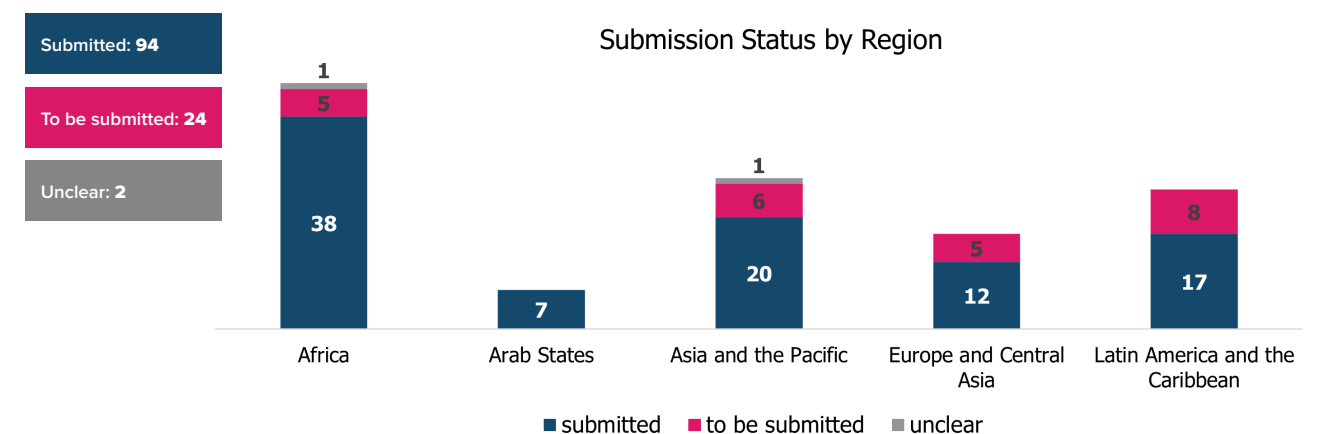
Key data and trends have been tracked throughout the lifetime of the initiative and across the broad portfolio to provide a snapshot of current trends and insights on NDCs around the world – particularly focused on submission trends and status, assessment of ambition, and quality of the NDC.

### NDC Submission Status

**As of 31 March 2022, 94 Climate Promise countries have submitted revised NDCs, representing 22% of global total GHG emissions and 84% of all developing countries.** This includes 34 Least Developed Countries (LDCs), 17 SIDS, 11 higher-emitters and 39 fragile states. 24 countries are expected to submit their NDCs this year, while

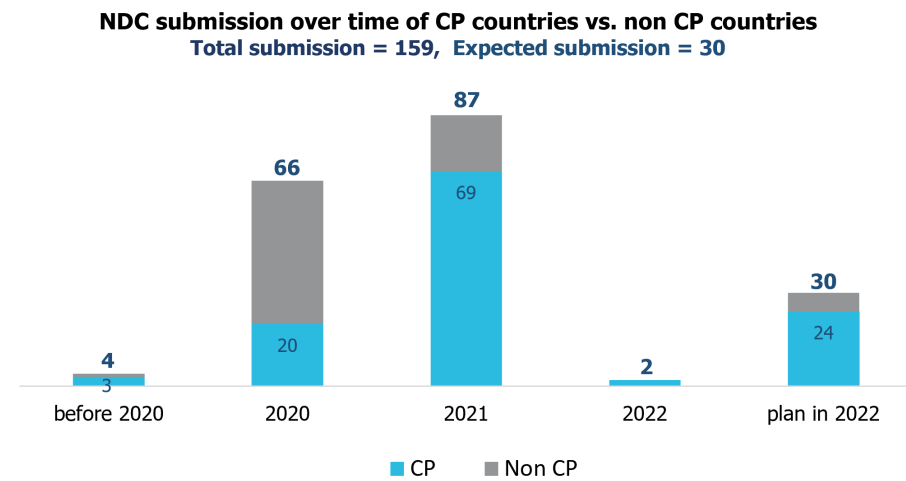
two countries remain unclear. All countries supported by the Climate Promise in the Arab States region have submitted enhanced NDCs (including Sudan’s interim updated NDC) and 86% of countries from the African region have also successfully communicated updated or new NDCs, many during the last quarter of 2021 ahead of COP26.

Figure 1. NDC submission status of Climate Promise-supported countries





**Figure 2. Global Snapshot: Submission Trends (as of 31 March 2022)**



As of 31 March 2022, a total of 159 countries globally have communicated updated/new NDCs to UNFCCC. Among these, 94 are Climate Promise countries, which represent 84% of all developing country submissions and almost two-thirds of all country submissions to date.

Climate Promise-supported country submissions make up the majority of 2021 submissions (69 out of 87) and are expected to represent the largest share of 2022 submissions (24 countries expected out of a total of 30).

## NDC Ambition

Data shows that multilateralism is working, with 180 nations – 91% of the world – intending to submit pledges with stronger mitigation targets and/or adaptation goals – up from just 75 countries in 2019.

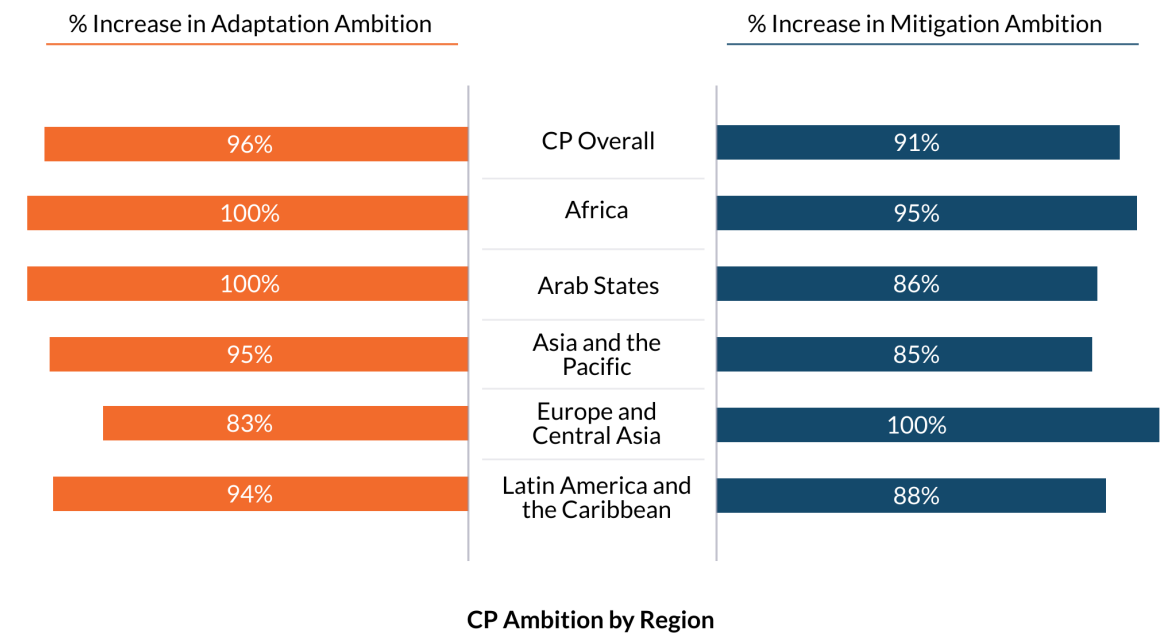
### Ambition Trends

Developing countries are demonstrating leadership on ambition, with Climate Promise countries stepping up. Among the 94 Climate Promise country submissions to date, 91% have demonstrated an increase in mitigation ambition and 96% have enhanced adaptation ambition<sup>1</sup>. Across the regions, ambition levels

are fairly consistent. Mitigation ambition is highest for Europe and Central Asia and Africa with 100% and 95% respectively, and lowest for Asia and the Pacific with 85%. Adaptation ambition is highest for Africa and Arab States, both 100%, and lowest for Europe and Central Asia with 83%.

<sup>1</sup> Increased mitigation ambition means the country aims to achieve greater GHG reductions by increasing previously stated target(s) including scope of unconditional contributions, expanding to new sectors or actions, or adding new gases that help achieve higher overall emission reduction targets. Adaptation ambition is complex to measure and assess compared to mitigation ambition as there is no globally agreed indicator. Based on UNDP's experience, enhanced adaptation ambition here refers to when the updated NDC has clear adaptation objectives, an expanded geographical coverage or sectoral scope, as well as included quantitative or qualitative targets and putting in place systems to measure progress and impacts. See Ambition Pathways section for more details

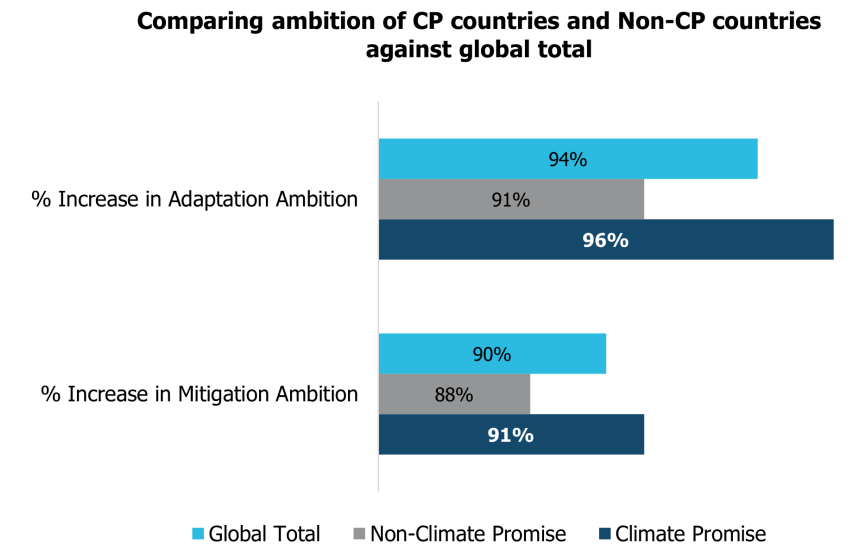
**Figure 3. NDC Ambition of Climate Promise-supported Countries, by Region**



**Figure 4. Global Snapshot: Ambition Trends**

Climate Promise countries are performing well on NDC ambition compared to other countries, as illustrated here.

*Note: Global total consists of 159 countries submitted as of 31 March 2022. Assessment done by UNDP in consultation with UNFCCC.*



Ambition champions emerging from the Climate Promise mirror global trends – LDCs and SIDS are leading the way, while higher emitters are falling short, particularly on mitigation ambition. Among

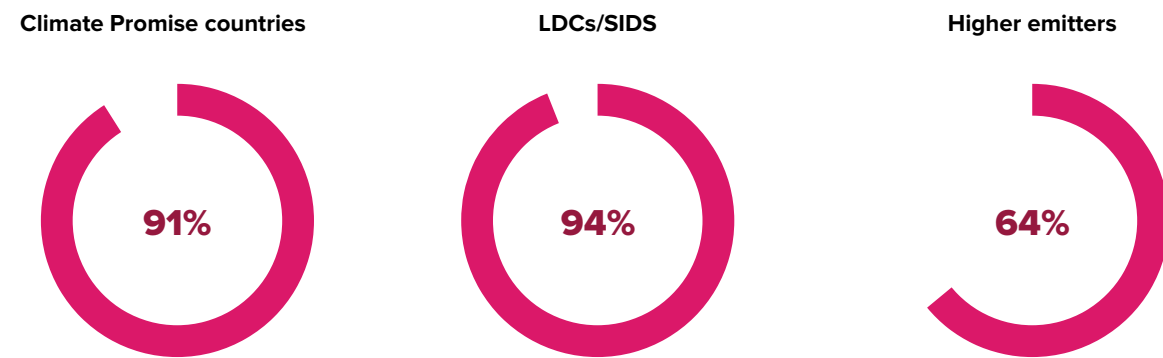
the 94 countries that have submitted updated/new NDCs to date, 94% of LDCs and SIDS have raised mitigation ambition, compared to only 64% of higher emitters.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Globally, according to UNDP's analysis of 159 countries that have communicated updated/new NDCs to the UNFCCC as of 31 March 2022, 93% of LDCs and SIDS raised mitigation ambition, compared to 71% of higher emitters.



**Figure 5. Mitigation ambition comparison between country groups under the Climate Promise**

% of countries which raised mitigation ambition

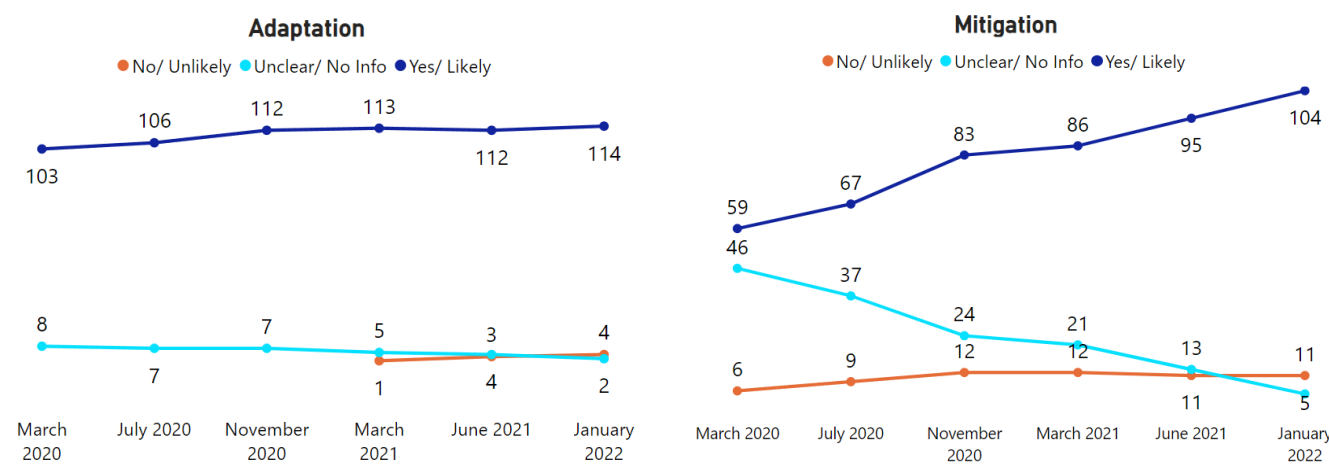


**Ambition over time**

A majority of countries chose to raise both mitigation and adaptation ambition despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 global pandemic, political turmoil, and other social and economic disruptions.

This is in line with the global trend that UNDP has been monitoring in collaboration with UNFCCC since 2019, when UNDP’s first global [NDC outlook report](#) was released. The Climate Promise contributed to a majority of countries climbing up the “Ladder of Ambition” (Figure 7).

**Figure 6. Ambition intentions over time, tracked by UNDP**

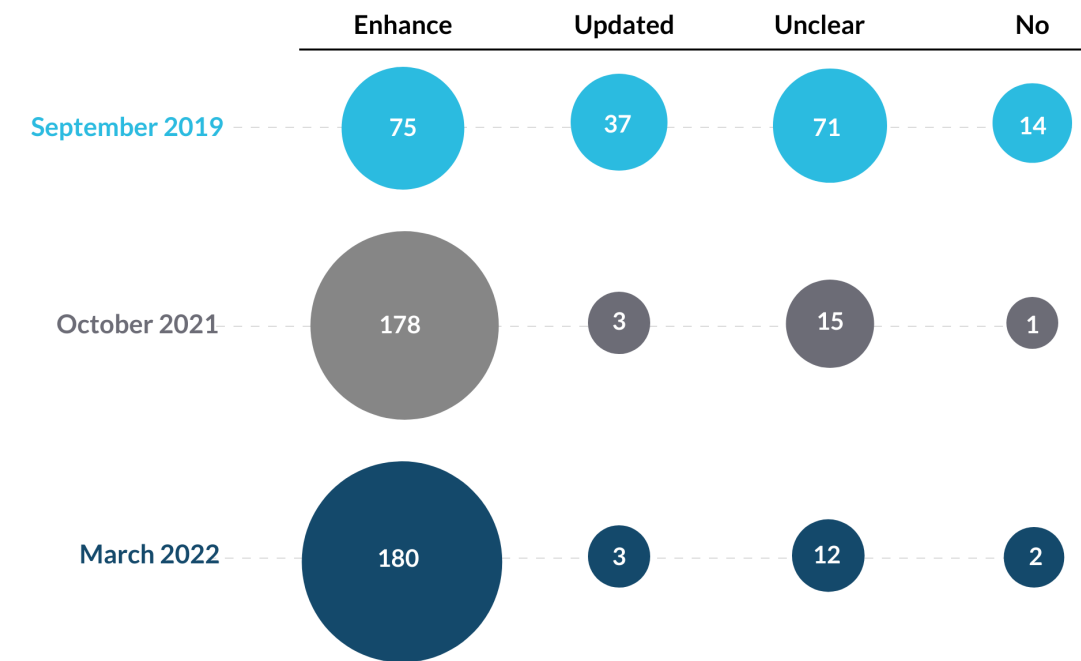


**Figure 7. Global Snapshot: Ladder of Ambition**

In 2019, UNDP took stock of the state of global climate ambition in the first global [NDC outlook report: The Heat Is On](#) and has since been monitoring progress as presented in the “Ladder of Ambition” here. This Ladder illustrates the number of countries across four key categories of intended NDC ambition: i) plans to enhance with greater ambition, ii) plans to update with additional information or data, iii) unclear intentions on ambition, and iv) no intention to raise ambition.

In 2021, UNDP’s [second NDC outlook report: State of Climate Ambition](#), an updated Ladder of Ambition indicating a significant number of countries moving up the ladder over time, from 75 countries planning to enhance in 2019, to 178 countries in October 2021, and up to 180 countries by March 2022. This represents 90% of all the countries that have submitted and/or plan to submit enhanced NDCs to the UNFCCC. More than two-thirds of them are supported through the Climate Promise.

**LADDER OF AMBITION**



For further definition of each category, see notes on pages 48-49 of the [State of Climate Ambition Report \(2021\)](#).

“With support from UNDP’s Climate Promise, and from across the UN system, 39 LDCs (Least Developed Countries) are able to enhance and submit robust NDCs, and these countries are demonstrating strong leadership.”

Dr. Tandi Dorji, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bhutan and Chair of Least Developed Countries Group



## Pathways to Ambition

Countries choose different pathways to increase mitigation and adaptation ambition in their NDCs. Figure 8 provides an overview of the most common ambition pathways chosen by Climate Promise countries in their NDC revision processes, providing a deeper understanding of how countries are advancing ambition. Understanding these pathways also allows identification of gaps and entry points for further enhancement and ambition raising. For example, increasing the magnitude of unconditional targets or including key gases that could accelerate emission reduction in the short- to medium-term are opportunities for strengthening ambition. There are also areas for strengthening adaptation, such as determining clear quantitative or qualitative targets and development of comprehensive monitoring and evaluation systems to measure progress and report on results and impacts. Some of these gaps are even more critical as countries are moving from commitments to actions.

Some countries looked beyond ambition on mitigation and adaptation to acknowledge the

needs for Loss and Damage (L&D). Out of the 92 NDCs analyzed, **over 30 countries specifically emphasized the needs for L&D in their new/ updated NDCs**. While in many cases, contents on L&D in countries' NDCs are less concrete and not directly action-oriented, this trend shows increasing recognition of this important topic. In addition, **SIDS are among the countries that have been most explicit about L&D**. Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Saint Lucia, and Vanuatu, in particular, have dedicated L&D sections in their updated NDCs. For instance, **Antigua and Barbuda** details its public and private sector L&D response to addressing both extreme weather events and slow onset events, as well as implementing gender-responsive national schemes focusing on climate-vulnerable livelihoods that depend upon fisheries and agricultural sectors. Antigua and Barbuda has also stressed the importance of climate resilient infrastructure development and international public finance such as debt-for-climate swaps in its L&D response. Climate Promise countries identify the issue of L&D as one of the key gaps that needs to be addressed in the next round of NDC revision.

**Figure 8: Ambition pathways analysed in 92 submitted NDCs supported through Climate Promise**

*(NB: 2 Climate Promise countries submitted interim NDCs which could not be analyzed)*

### MITIGATION PATHWAYS

<b>81 (88%)</b>	Increase GHG emission reduction targets
<b>75 (82%)</b>	Add new mitigation sectors or increase scope within existing sectors
<b>68 (74%)</b>	Increase scope of unconditional mitigation targets
<b>55 (60%)</b>	Cover all GHGs or included new GHGs including Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs)

### ADAPTATION PATHWAYS

<b>88 (96%)</b>	Align with NAP or other adaptation planning processes or instruments
<b>79 (86%)</b>	Increase adaptation sectoral coverage or scope within existing sectors
<b>39 (42%)</b>	Include quantitative or qualitative targets and provisions for a monitoring evaluation system
<b>83 (90%)</b>	Include clear adaptation objectives in line with the Paris Agreement including in a form of Adaptation Communications

*Ambition pathways will be further analysed in the forthcoming Regional Briefs.*

## Central African Republic

### Latest LDC stepping up ambition

The Central African Republic submitted its NDC in January 2022 and stepped up its mitigation target. It committed to an unconditional GHG reduction target of 9.03% by 2025 and 11.82% by 2030, and a conditional GHG reduction of 14.64% by 2025 and 24.28% by 2030 compared to BAU level. In addition, the updated NDC expanded sectoral coverage to include transportation, mining, land use, and housing; and added new GHGs: Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs). The NDC formulation process was also carried out in a more inclusive manner, with particular attention given to respecting gender mainstreaming across all activities. In the updated NDC, data quality improved and adaptation planning was more robust with measures based on targeted goals, consistent with sectoral objectives, and aligned with the National Adaptation Plan (NAP). An MRV system is also proposed.

UNDP helped the Central African Republic to improve the quality of the NDC and identify options for raising ambition. This included support to assess costs of adaptation and mitigation activities, develop NDC implementation plan and financing strategy, and establish an MRV system. UNDP further provided support in assessment of institutional capacity needs of those involved in NDC implementation, development of the NDC national resource mobilization strategy, and elaboration of a roadmap for NDC implementation. An NDC communication strategy and related tools have also been developed to support awareness raising, mobilization and engagement of all stakeholders in NDC implementation, in particular young people, women, and indigenous peoples.



# NDC Quality

While NDC ambition is critical to meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement, this must go hand in hand with NDC quality – to both ensure effective implementation and inform future ambition raising. Based on extensive experience supporting climate policies, strategies and action, UNDP has defined three dimensions of NDC quality: i) Robustness, ii) Feasibility and iii) Ownership and inclusivity. A strong focus of Climate Promise support to countries has been advocating and advancing NDC quality along these three dimensions. UNDP's [Quality Assurance Checklist for Revising NDCs](#), developed in 2020, provides a tool for governments and practitioners to assess specific opportunities to improve NDC quality against each of these dimensions. Using this checklist as a guide, UNDP undertook an in-depth analysis of the quality of second generation NDCs submitted by Climate Promise countries – first published in UNDP's [State of Climate Ambition Report](#) (October 2021) with data from 67 countries, and now updated with data from 92 countries.

This analysis has generated critical trends and insights on the strengths of NDC quality and opportunities for improvement.

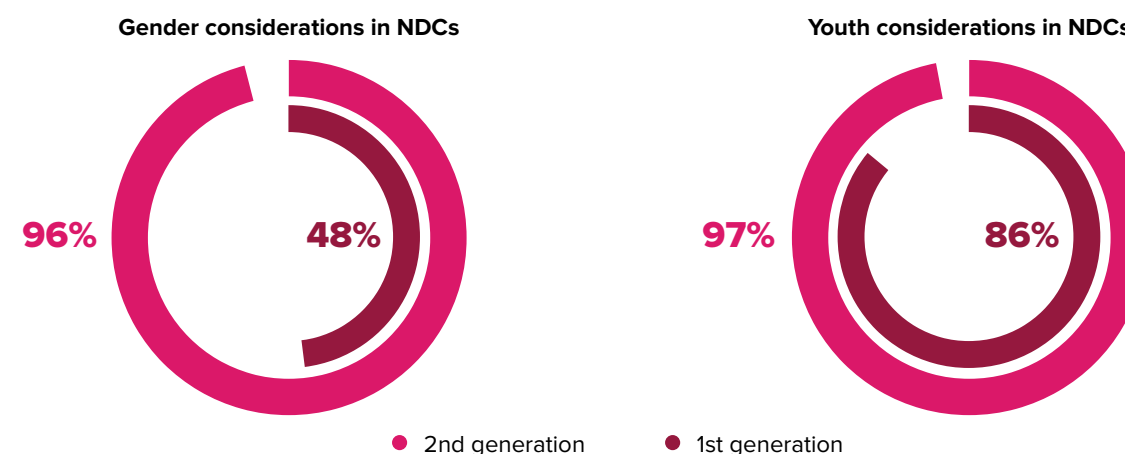
## Trends on Overall NDC Quality

Overall, second-generation NDCs are of higher quality, more inclusive, and country driven. However, putting in place elements to ensure feasible implementation of NDCs remains a key hurdle for developing countries. Over 80% of Climate Promise-supported NDCs scored above average on both robustness and ownership/inclusiveness criteria (82% and 80% respectively) (Figure 9). However, only 33% scored above average on implementation feasibility – demonstrating a critical need to further invest in attracting finance and strengthening human, institutional and technological capacities to deliver targets. (For details on each quality criterion and the methodology, see pages 16-17 and 48-49 of UNDP's [State of Climate Ambition Report](#)).

Figure 9: Submitted NDCs of Climate Promise-supported countries assessed against dimensions of NDC quality



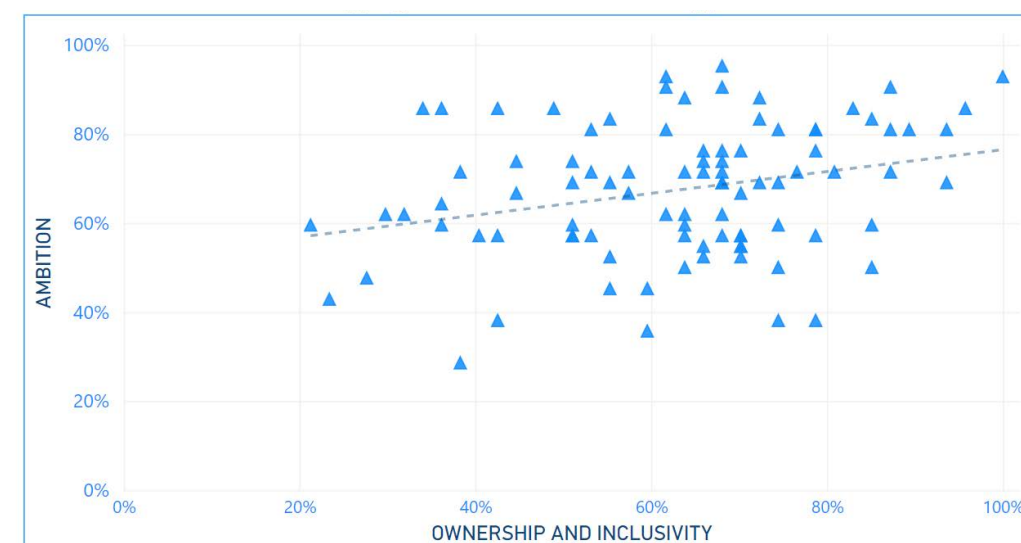
Figure 10. Comparison between first- and second-generation NDCs on gender and youth considerations



Second-generation NDCs are adopting more inclusive approaches and, as a result, reflecting more priorities of a broader scope of society, particularly in addressing gender equality and youth. This is particularly striking when compared to first generation NDCs (Figure 10). 96% of Climate Promise countries that submitted new or updated NDCs have included references to women's empowerment and/or gender equality, as compared to 48% in the first-generation NDCs. In addition, 97% of second-generation NDCs recognized youth as a key stakeholder group, as compared to 86% in the first generation.

Many countries that encouraged greater societal ownership and inclusivity during the NDC revision process have been able to capitalize on these efforts to drive greater ambition. However, this is not true across the board due to different national circumstances and contexts, and other factors that impact ambition (e.g., political will). Figure 11 provides an updated analysis of the correlation between the level of ambition and the extent of inclusivity efforts undertaken by governments in their NDC revision processes in the 92 NDC submitted with Climate Promise support.

Figure 11. Mapping ambition in submitted Climate Promise-supported NDCs to inclusive approaches





**A highly inclusive NDC revision process**

El Salvador’s updated NDC, submitted in January 2022, has progressed from an action-only commitment to quantifiable mitigation targets in the Energy and Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sectors. In addition, it outlines national priorities for the reducing climate vulnerability by establishing measures to increase the adaptation and resilience of the country’s human and environmental systems. El Salvador has expanded its adaptation component and made significant progress in shaping a regulatory framework and institutional arrangements to support NDC implementation. The country is currently preparing an MRV system and working to update all mitigation targets and include additional adaptation sectors. After this update process, the country will evaluate the possibility of submitting an addendum to their NDC in 2022.

The updated NDC is a result of a highly inclusive and gender-sensitive NDC revision process with a series of targeted consultations and engagement of key stakeholders. The revision process engaged around 750 representatives including public officials, technicians, institutes for women, sectoral experts, private sector, UN agencies, academia, NGOs, among others. The process included over 10 sectoral, technical, and social workshops and about 24 bilateral working sessions. A specific activity was organized with civil society to present the progress of the updated NDC, systematize contributions and assessments, and ensure the civil society’s active participation in the planning process for next steps of NDC implementation. In addition, more than 200 participants representing different stakeholder groups attended 10 training sessions on climate change, with a focus on gender and climate finance. A public awareness campaign called “The Voices of Climate Change” is being initiated to keep the momentum as El Salvador advances from pledges into implementation.

UNDP was a key partner providing technical and financial support to ensure a successful revision of El Salvador’s NDC. Technical assistance included designing a methodology for review/ analysis and updating of the NDC commitments, providing technical advisory support to sectoral experts from leading public development sector entities, supporting the organization of sectoral and inter-sectoral technical roundtables, and training and awareness raising. UNDP continues to support the government following the submission to elaborate NDC implementation plans.

# Analysis of Dimensions of NDC Quality

## 1. OWNERSHIP AND INCLUSION

**This dimension focuses on efforts to strengthen NDC processes through country ownership and an inclusive engagement process, taking a whole-of-government approach, and engaging across society in the design and implementation of the enhanced NDC.**

**Nearly all NDC revision processes supported by UNDP’s Climate Promise were driven and led by the government with active engagement across different sectors and levels of government.**

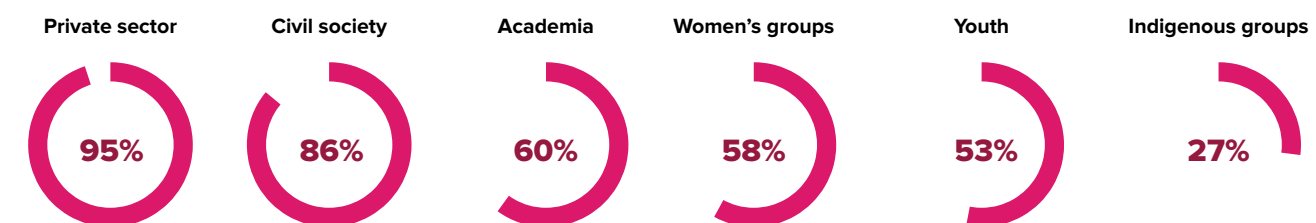
Overall, more inclusive engagement in NDC revision translates into more effective implementation, given it helps strengthen local expertise, facilitates flow of information and encourages innovation and private sector engagement by enabling entrepreneurs. Local and regional governments also often bring know-how to implement NDCs that is more limited at the national level.

**A broader range of stakeholders were consulted during the NDC revision process compared to the first generation** (Figure 11). It is encouraging to see that almost every country (95%) made efforts to consult/engage the private sector in the revision

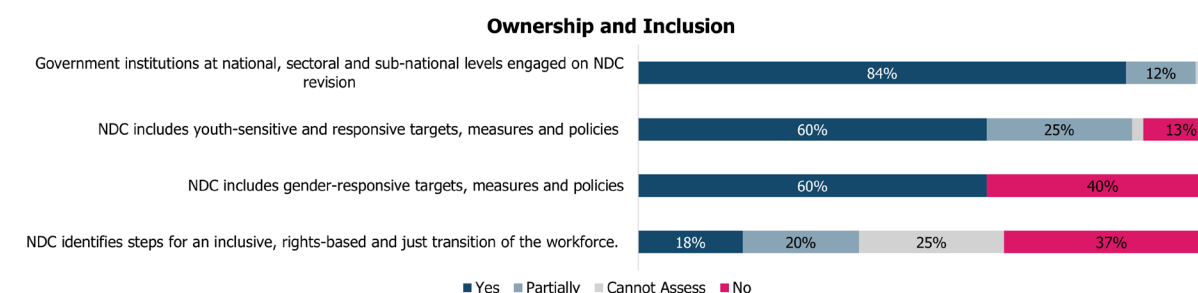
process – a key stakeholder for NDC implementation – although this may look very different across countries. While “civil society” as a whole was also consulted in most countries (86%), a majority of countries also made efforts to reach out to targeted constituencies, such as academia (60%) women’s groups (58%), and youth (53%). Despite the challenges of COVID-19 lockdowns, 27% of countries also consulted indigenous peoples’ groups.

**More can still be done to strengthen this inclusive approach to both better inform NDC targets and measures and accelerate implementation.** Despite the high recognition and engagement of different stakeholder groups in the NDCs at a general level, around 60% of the 92 NDCs assessed specifically included NDC targets, measures and policies that are gender and youth-sensitive (Figure 13).

**Figure 12: % of Climate Promise-supported countries with targeted consultations on the NDC revision**



**Figure 13: Submitted NDCs of Climate Promise-supported countries assessed against selected ownership and inclusion criteria**





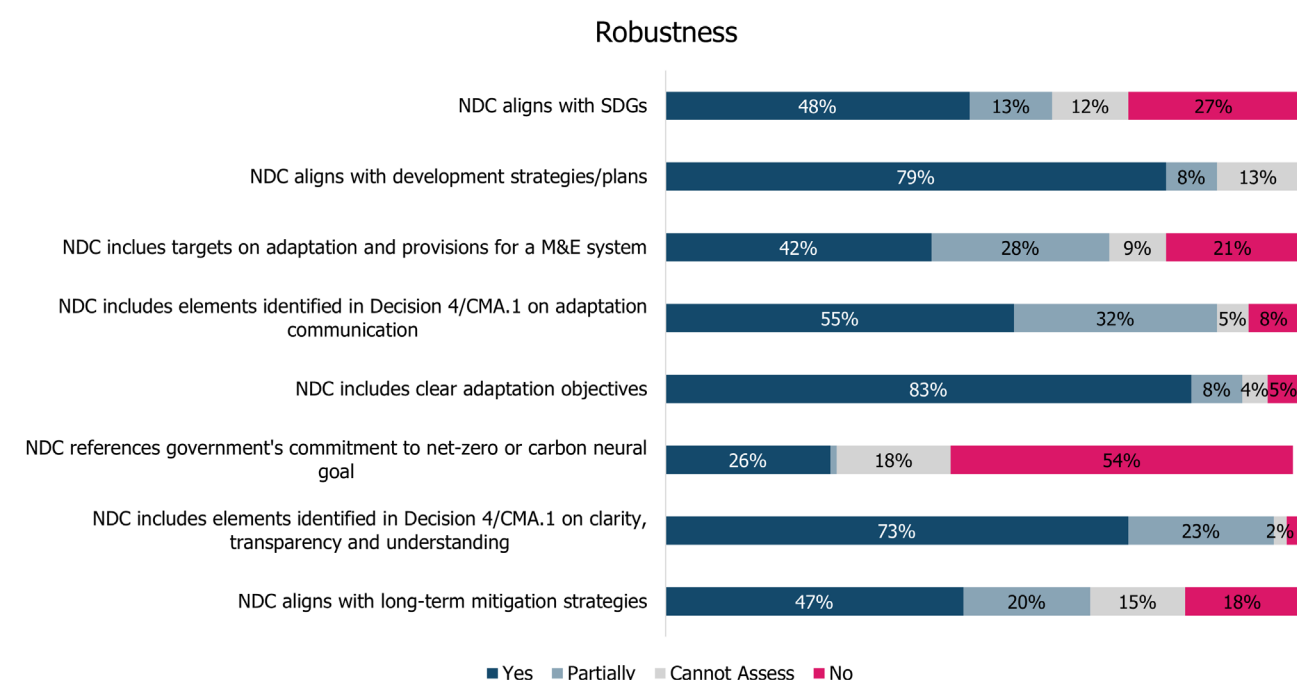
## 2. ROBUSTNESS

This dimension relates to clarity and transparency of information communicated in the NDC (e.g., baseline information, emission reference point, methodologies for GHG scenarios, target year/timeframe, MRV systems) as well as alignment with development strategies and plans, including the SDGs.

Climate Promise-supported NDCs are performing well against most criteria for robustness (Figure 14). This is particularly true when it comes to aligning with UNFCCC decisions related to elements of “Clarity, Transparency and Understanding”, as well as defining clear adaptation objectives and including elements of Adaptation Communications. However, more progress could be seen on provision of clearer quantifiable and/or qualitative adaptation goals, including how to measure and report on their progress. Strengthened alignment between NDCs and long-term mitigation strategies and net-zero commitments is also needed.

Almost 80% of Climate Promise-supported countries have aligned their NDC with development strategies and plans, and more than half have fully and/or partially aligned NDCs with the SDGs and related processes. However, more opportunities could be leveraged. Notable areas where improvements can be made are related to alignment of NDCs with long-term mitigation strategies and especially to commitments to net-zero or carbon neutrality where these exist.

Figure 14. Submitted NDCs from Climate Promise-supported countries assessed against selected robustness criteria



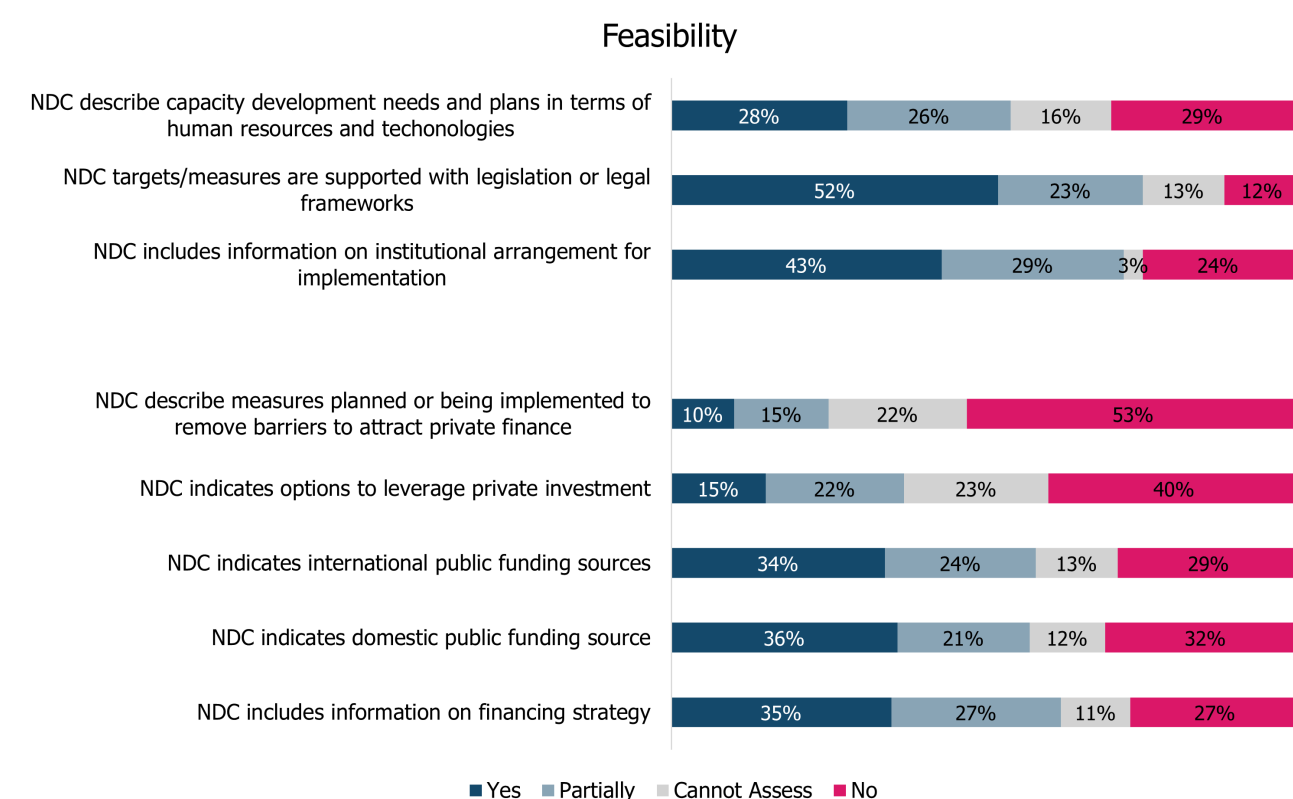
## 3. FEASIBILITY

This dimension reviews whether the NDC incorporates elements that provide a solid foundation for implementation. It examines whether the revision process has undertaken assessments of costs and benefits, financing options, and investment opportunities of NDC actions – for both international and domestic funding and from both public and private sources. It also assesses the institutional, human and technological capacity of governments required for successful NDC implementation.

Overall, while significant improvements have been made compared to first-generation NDCs, feasibility remains a key area for further support (Figure 15). While around three-quarters of countries have fully or partially identified the necessary institutional structures and mechanisms, as well as policies and regulatory frameworks, to support effective implementation of NDCs, half of the countries did not specify the human and technological capacity needs required to fully materialize the commitments.

Finance remains a major gap for most countries, particularly mobilising private finance to support implementation of actions. Only a small number of countries include information on costing and less than a third of countries either fully or partially identified measures that aim to reduce risks and/or remove barriers for private investors.

Figure 15: Submitted NDCs from Climate Promise-supported countries assessed against selected feasibility criteria







## Honduras

### A robust and high quality NDC

Honduras submitted its updated NDC in May 2021 with the support of UNDP's Climate Promise. The NDC presents greater ambition in both mitigation and adaptation, and is also more comprehensive and robust compared to the first NDC. The updated NDC commits to reduce net GHG emissions by 16% compared to "business as usual" (BAU) by 2030. The updated NDC is presented as a commitment of the people of Honduras, with more robust content, including 13 national strategic objectives and strengthened adaptation. Finally, the updated NDC extensively fulfilled the clarity, transparency, and understanding requirements for the NDC with progress and needs on areas related to policy and institutional capacities, finance and MRV.

The NDC is a result of a highly inclusive and whole-of-society driven NDC revision process that involved 74 technical working meetings, three socialization workshops, and three validation meetings with relevant key stakeholders. Alignment with the SDGs has been clearly identified across key measures and targets and comprehensive information on social inclusion (gender equality and equity, young people, and indigenous and Afro-Honduran peoples) has been well elaborated, including six social commitments. This includes the identification of clear roles of relevant institutions to play a role in NDC implementation and ensure the promotion of social inclusion, gender equality, women's empowerment, and intergenerational equity. A national consultation was held to validate the social inclusion and gender recommendations for the updated NDC, with targeted participation from women's groups, youth, and indigenous and Afro-Honduran Peoples.

UNDP was a key partner in supporting Honduras, working in collaboration with GIZ-NDC Assist, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and Adaptation Fund, the NDC Support Facility of the World Bank, through leveraging the coordinating platform of the NDC Partnership and support delivered through its Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP).



# 04

## Advancing NDC Implementation — Progress to Date



In addition to the significant results achieved on enhancing NDC ambition and quality, UNDP's Climate Promise has also played a key role in supporting countries to put in place policies and enabling environments to advance NDC implementation. Many of the activities and results achieved through NDC revision will make it easier to move forward in achieving these pledges. For example, key national and sectoral assessments and analyses have been essential to support NDC revision, but they will also help enable countries to set foundations, identify gaps, and initiate processes to advance implementation. The key results and progress outlined below demonstrate considerable progress to date along the core service lines of the Climate Promise, particularly over the past year.

### Strengthening Policies, Institutions and Capacities

**Around 90 countries have been supported under the Climate Promise to establish and/or strengthen policies, institutions and capacities that underpin effective NDC implementation and more ambitious climate action.** This support includes strengthening institutions and policies, developing policies and legislation for climate action and long-term sustainable development, such as National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Long-term Strategies (LTS), development of NDC implementation roadmaps, and capacity assessment and capacity building programmes at national and sectoral levels.

**Over 20 countries have been establishing and/or strengthening existing policies and legislation on climate change and enhancing institutional capacity.** For example, **Morocco** strengthened the regulatory framework through the development of

a law on climate change and related implementing decrees. **El Salvador** prepared the Water Resource Law approved by the Legislative assembly in December 2021. **Jordan** revamped its institutional set-up to support NDC development, implementation and monitoring, and **Argentina** strengthened its National Climate Change Cabinet in order to submit technical proposals in mitigation and adaptation to political levels and to build consensus with actors involved.

**25 countries leveraged the NDC revision process to align short- and medium-term climate action with long-term net-zero strategies or goals.** **Kyrgyz Republic** revised its concept of Low-Emission Development and formulated mid- and/or long-term development concept strategy pathways until 2050, in parallel to developing a 10-year plan for NDC



implementation that prioritizes specific actions to be undertaken in the near-term. Colombia has aligned activities and embedded NDC targets/priorities in long-term strategies, sub-national plans and budgets, and sectoral plans.

**Over 35 countries are advancing on NDC implementation roadmaps and strategies, compared to just over 20 countries in April 2021.**

For instance, **Ghana** focuses on improving its existing, gender-sensitive NDC implementation plan by including new actions that will help to achieve the national NDC target and is also developing a corresponding financing strategy. **Belarus** assessed governmental capacity and skills gaps for NDC implementation and developed a 5-year strategy for building systematic foundations for NDC revision and implementation. **South Sudan** completed the development of a gender-sensitive NDC implementation plan and resource mobilization strategy, further supporting implementation of identified actions while facilitating achievement of gender equality and the enhancement of household and community resilience.

**In addition, over 110 countries reported progress on assessments and analyses of baselines and scenarios, target reviews and updates in priority sectors which inform policies and strategies, including 102 which have completed these analyses to date.** This is an area of support that

has advanced quickly in nearly all countries and directly contributed to NDC revision processes through setting of targets, identifying policies, and prioritizing measures across a range of sectors. The energy sector (including transport) receives the most support among all Climate Promise countries, followed by agriculture and forests/land use. Other sectors supported by many countries under the Climate Promise are: waste, water/oceans, industry, Nature-Based Solutions (NBS), health, and disaster risk reduction. Some cross cutting emerging areas, such as circular economy, are the focus of a smaller group of countries.

**While these technical assessments and analyses were key to informing the revision of NDCs, they also help countries to set the foundation, identify gaps, and initiate processes to advance implementation.** For example, **Indonesia** aims to develop more ambitious plans for energy transition to realize its potential on renewable energy installed capacity. Indonesia has also proposed energy mix targets and identified further analyses and policy research to remove barriers and attract investments for green transition of the energy sector. **Montenegro** analyzed measures for management of the land-use sector and identified the need to improve GHG emission data and maps related to land use and land-use change in order to include sinks in the LULUCF sector in the next NDC revision cycle.

## Turkey

### Advancing climate change policies and strategies

After ratifying the Paris Agreement in 2021 – the last G20 country to do so – Turkey is now developing a series of policies and strategies to establish its climate ambition and advance action. These include preparation of an updated NDC and an LTS, and revision of the NAP.

Using a team of national and international experts, Turkey initiated its NDC and LTS development simultaneously, with the aim to ensure strong linkages between them. This includes key sectoral assessments and reference scenario analyses which were undertaken in close coordination for the seven priority sectors chosen for both strategies. An assessment using the International Labour Organization (ILO's) Green Jobs Assessment Model to identify opportunities and trade-offs in a low-carbon transition is underway and will provide key data to inform the priorities and policy measures in the NDC and LTS. The model aims to analyze the potential impacts on the economy, jobs, and GHG emissions of Turkey's "green" electricity transition, the effects on the work of women and refugees, and the expected shift in the demand of skilled work throughout the Turkish economy.

The NDC and LTS development process is underpinned by an extensive coordination and stakeholder engagement plan to ensure that Turkey's long-term vision obtains a whole-of-

society consensus. The first ever national climate consultation under the coordination of the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change attracted more than 1,000 experts from public and private entities as well as civil society. A whole-of-society approach is also being applied to an LTS communication strategy in cooperation with 2050 Pathways Platform.

Importantly, Turkey has also launched the revision of its NAP, financed by the EU, to be aligned to the LTS and NDC. The revised NAP, NDC and the LTS will become Turkey's comprehensive policy package, a result of its stepped-up commitment at COP26 and expected to be finalised by and/or presented at COP27. In addition, to enhance transparency and public awareness, a web-based portal for a GHG emission calculation tool has been prepared with the involvement of municipalities to augment local climate action, linking to national decision-making processes.

UNDP was a key partner providing technical advisory support to the government of Turkey in pursuing these policy advancements. This is being done in collaboration with the Climate Change Presidency of the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, a Turkish NGO called the Nature Conservation Center, ILO, and the 2050 Pathways Platform.





A priority for many countries has been developing NAPs and linking them to NDCs. 88 (96%) of the 92 Climate Promise countries which have submitted full NDCs to date aligned their NDCs with national adaptation planning processes and instruments, including NAPs. More specifically, in many countries where UNDP provides substantial technical assistance to the NAP development process, governments are leveraging these opportunities to further elaborate and turn adaptation commitments into a concrete plan of action.

**UNDP has been supporting 45 countries on NAP development and related enabling processes for adaptation implementation, of which 14 have successfully communicated a NAP to the UNFCCC (Figure 16).** This includes support to conduct risk and vulnerability assessments in key sectors, strengthening institutions to support adaptation planning and actions, establishing monitoring and evaluation (M&E) frameworks for adaptation to monitor progress and impacts, and preparation of financing and investment plans. For example, in **Liberia**, which communicated

its NAP to UNFCCC in December 2021, UNDP supported activities such as: strengthening institutional frameworks and coordination for implementation of the NAP, expanding the knowledge base, formulating financing mechanisms for scaling up adaptation, and building capacity for mainstreaming climate change adaptation into planning and budgeting processes and systems. UNDP is supporting **Bangladesh** to appraise and prioritise adaptation options and formulate a NAP, set up a tracking mechanism for nationally-appropriate adaptation investments, and prepare a financial plan for mid- and long-term adaptation implementation. In both **Ecuador** and **Armenia**, UNDP is ensuring preparatory elements are in place to develop a knowledge base and formulate the NAP, facilitate implementation, set up M&E mechanisms to track progress, and develop a NAP funding strategy. UNDP is scaling up support under the new phase of the Climate Promise, with more than 10 countries in the pipeline for support and further demand from additional countries.

**Figure 16. Map of countries supported by UNDP on NAP development and related processes**



## Financing and Investment

**87 Climate Promise countries<sup>3</sup> have made substantial progress in strengthening the foundation for identifying and mobilizing resources to realize NDC targets, a notable increase from 70 countries reported in April 2021.** Countries are putting in place financing strategies and investment plans, and identifying opportunities that enable mobilization and allocation of financial resources from both public and private sectors to support the implementation of their NDCs.

**At least 60 countries have been assisted under the Climate Promise to develop financing strategies or undertake assessments to inform budgeting and financing frameworks for NDC implementation.** For example, **Liberia** has finalised and validated a comprehensive financing strategy with relevant stakeholders, while more than 30 government staff have been trained to serve as a pool of national experts to support Ministries prepare and report on submissions for national budget allotments to support unconditional aspects of the NDC. **Honduras** has completed a roadmap for the development of a climate change financing strategy with a focus on carbon markets, which has been put forward to the government for follow up and implementation. The strategy is also expected to contribute to the NDC transparency framework through piloting of national proposals in the carbon markets. **Sri Lanka** has conducted an economy-wide investment barrier analyses and costings of the NDC to guide policy and regulatory interventions and establish an NDC investment strategy. In **Montenegro**, a cost-benefit analysis was conducted to support the preparation of the NDC finance strategy.

**In addition, around 20 countries are developing forms of innovative finance, such as green bonds and carbon pricing and trading systems.** For example, **Uzbekistan** has completed the development of financial mechanisms, including green mortgages and bonds/sukuks, to boost public and private investments in low-carbon housing and infrastructure/technologies. **Iran** was supported on its national market mechanism for energy efficiency as the basis for a national emission trading system, with emphasis on private sector engagement throughout the design process. Four technical studies were completed which included: i) a review of national legislation promoting national carbon markets, ii) understanding the extent of emission reductions and energy efficiency in a national carbon market, iii) a road map for de-subsidization of the energy prices, and iv) definition of institutional arrangements and mechanisms for establishment of a national carbon market.

**Finally, 14 countries are advancing policy, regulation, and advocacy on climate investments to mobilizing resources to finance NDC implementation, especially from the private sector.** For instance, **Sao Tome and Principe** is holding advocacy campaigns targeting private sector investors, aiming to scale-up private sector engagement and financing commitments for NDC implementation. And in **Kenya**, regulatory due diligence was completed for private sector engagement in the waste sector.

<sup>3</sup> A total of 95 Climate Promise-supported countries have activities related to financing and investment (Service Line 4 of the Climate Promise, "Accessing Costs and Investment Opportunities").



### Scaling up climate finance for NDC implementation

Through support from UNDP's Climate Promise, Indonesia has completed the preparation of its Climate Change Fiscal Framework (CCFF), which included high-level dialogues across the government on gender-responsiveness, and the development of a pipeline of public projects to be funded through issuances of Green Sukuks (a type of bond). It has also completed systematic studies on environmental tax and incentive reform. These steps will advance Indonesia's efforts to mobilise finance for NDC implementation. UNDP is also supporting capacity building for the newly established Indonesian Environment Fund to carry out its mandate and assisting Indonesia to develop a Climate Budget Tagging (CBT) system at national and sub-national levels.

The G20 Climate Sustainability Working Group (CSWG) under the Indonesian Presidency in 2022 has initiated studies on priority issues, including ways to enhance resource mobilization in support of environment protection and climate objectives. These studies aim to understand how to accelerate NDC implementation towards a sustainable, low-emission and climate-resilient transition using innovative climate finance policies and interventions, such as carbon pricing combined with other carbon policy instruments in sectors as diverse as energy, industry, transport, forestry and land use.

In this context, UNDP is supporting the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, through the Directorate General of Climate Change Control, to prepare a report that will recommend strategies to put in place carbon policies that align, integrate, and support NDC implementation in G20 countries that commit to the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement. The report will be based on existing G20 and global experiences, scope the economic value of carbon policies, and provide recommendations on strategies and a roadmap for carbon pricing implementation.

## Transparency and MRV

**81 countries to date have reported concrete results on climate data and transparency under the Climate Promise, building on longer-term efforts to establish systems to track, monitor, and report on climate action.** This is notable progress compared to 65 countries reporting results in April 2021. Strengthening transparency systems is critical for ensuring NDCs are effectively implemented, progress is documented, and results analyzed to further inform future NDC revisions.

**40 countries are building and improving their GHG Inventory systems, which directly inform NDC target setting and tracking.** For example, **Guatemala** updated GHG emissions profiles for the waste and industrial processes sectors, which informed prioritization of mitigation actions for the NDC. In the **Central African Republic** and **Burundi**, the Climate Promise supported the update of GHG inventories, from which results and inputs such as new gases were identified to be integrated into the countries' updated NDCs. Viet Nam stresses the importance of private sector inclusion in its national GHG inventory, providing support such as a GHG calculator tool and trainings for private businesses to facilitate their voluntary registration into Viet Nam's [Climate Business Index](#).

**Over 60 countries are building and updating MRV systems.** While many countries are in the process of establishing their MRV systems, others with existing MRV systems aim to update and align them with their revised NDCs in a sector-specific and gender-informed approach. **Botswana** is revising its current MRV system to be more robust for tracking implementation of its updated NDC, including the newly-added LULUCF, biodiversity and ecosystems, and industry sectors. **Iraq** has completed the design and strengthening of national and sectoral MRV systems. In addition, a smaller number of countries are advancing on M&E frameworks for adaptation. **Guatemala**, for instance, has developed a comprehensive M&E system for climate change adaptation in the agriculture, livestock, food security, and marine coastal zones sectors.

Ten countries are developing financial tracking and climate budget tagging (CBT) mechanisms. For example, Ecuador has developed a CBT proposal for its Ministry of Finance and is now analyzing measures and actions to integrate gender into the CBT process. Seychelles is providing capacity building to the Ministry of Finance to better track and report on climate funds flows, which are incorporated in its national budgeting exercise.

“With the support from the UNDP Climate Promise, North Macedonia developed a fiscal strategy for its enhanced NDCs. This strategy help us identify barriers to private sector investment and develop public-private partnership for climate action.”

Mr. Stevo Pendarovski, President of Republic of North Macedonia



**Setting up a robust and transparent national GHG inventory to advance NDC implementation**

Lebanon has been a champion for ambitious climate action. Despite political and economic turmoil experienced in the past few years, Lebanon submitted a more ambitious NDC with an increase in both unconditional and conditional GHG reduction targets. It also demonstrates commitment to turn these goals into actions. One priority area that Lebanon is focusing on is aligning the NDC with the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement. The ETF is designed to build trust and confidence that all countries are contributing to global efforts and tracking and reporting on this contribution. Developing countries are expected to prepare their first biennial transparency report (BTR1) and national inventory report by 31 December 2024 -- the first reports under the new ETF. At the same time, efforts that have been made historically through national communications (NCs) and biennial update reports (BURs)<sup>4</sup> will be the starting point and solid foundation on which to develop the new iteration of reports. All these efforts guide countries in tracking and reporting on progress towards achievement of their NDCs.

Through support under UNDP's portfolio on NCs and BURs, funded by the Global Environment Facility, UNDP has supported Lebanon to update its national GHG inventory and submit its 4th BUR in December 2021. Considered as one of the most robust and transparent inventories assessed by an independent expert reviewer, the national GHG inventory provided critical data and valuable inputs to Lebanon's NDC process. In particular, the inventory and mitigation data formed the foundation for defining NDC targets and application of guidance on Information to provide Clarity, Transparency and Understanding (ICTU) in Decision 4/CMA.1 under the Paris Agreement. The transparency work supported by UNDP will continue to guide the monitoring and tracking of NDC progress throughout implementation and help Lebanon prepare for the ETF transition.

<sup>4</sup> Specifically, BURs focus on a national GHG inventory, mitigations actions, finance technology and capacity building needs, while NCs collect existing information and provide more detailed information on Programmes containing measures to support Paris Agreement goals (e.g. mitigation, adaptation, technology transfer, research and systematic observation, education, training and public awareness).



**Mainstreaming & Aligning with Development Agendas, Including the SDGs**

**60 countries are pursuing efforts to better align and mainstream NDC priorities and measures into development plans and strategies, including SDG processes.**

**Alignment between NDCs and SDGs has significantly improved, with more than 40 countries making efforts to build stronger linkages.** For example, the implementation chapter of **Nepal's** NDC refers to the complementarity between the SDGs and Nepal's LTS for net-zero emissions by 2045, as well as explicit efforts to improve synergies between policies and actions implemented to achieve both the NDC and the SDGs. In **Turkmenistan**, the update of the NDC made it possible to simultaneously assess the country's potential in achieving the SDGs and to identify new benchmarks for the short and long term, as well as synergies between the two processes.

**In over 35 countries, NDC targets and policies have been successfully integrated into national, subnational, and/or sectoral development plans.** The **Central African Republic** aligned its NDC priorities with the national priorities contained in its National Peace Stabilization and Consolidation Plan. In the Kyrgyz Republic, UNDP supported the alignment of NDC targets with relevant existing policies and sectoral plans and targets, based on a review of data and gap analysis related to vulnerabilities and risks.

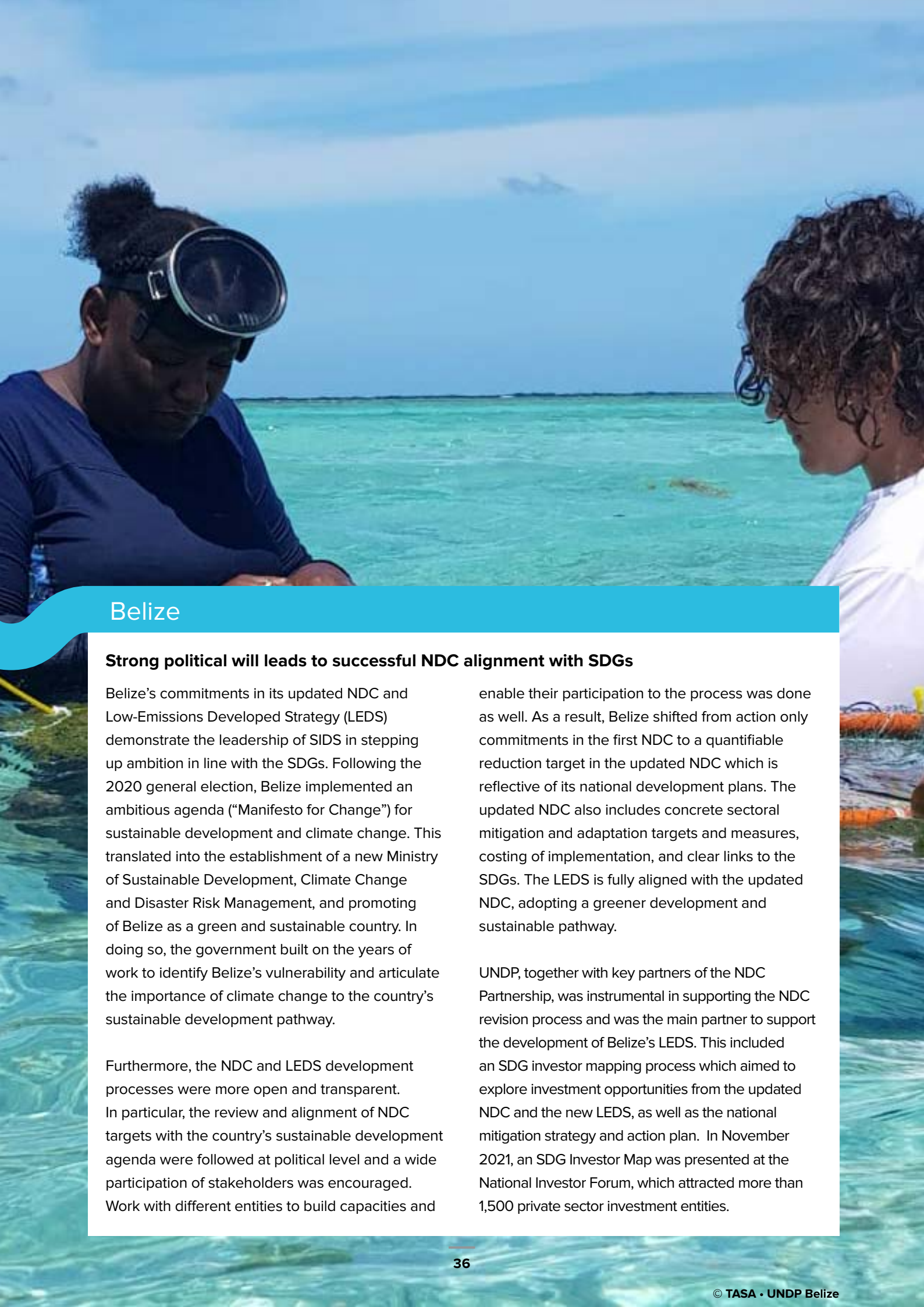
**These efforts are critical to ensure feasibility and sustainability of NDC implementation.** Countries are continuing to move forward on unpacking and integrating NDC targets and measures into existing plans, budgets and strategies – both sectoral and economy-wide. Through this process, NDC achievement becomes further embedded

within existing structures and systems that ensure more sustainable and lasting implementation. At the same time, NDCs can be a blueprint to guide the direction of sectoral planning in order to keep development pathways aligned with both the Paris Agreement goals and the SDGs.



© UNDP Nepal





## Societal Ownership and Inclusivity

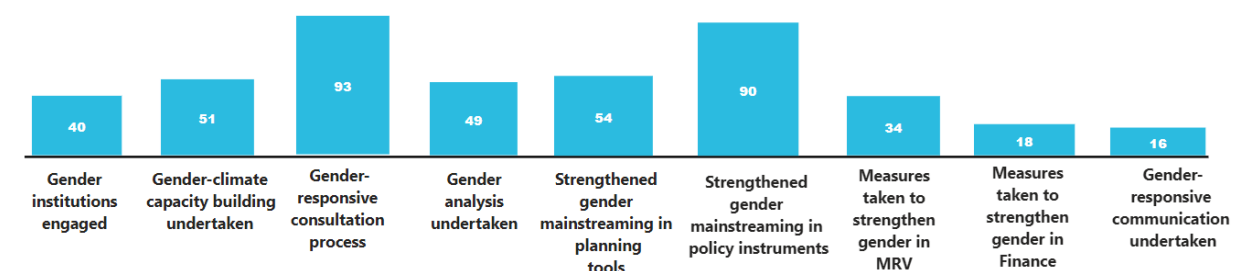
Societal ownership and inclusivity are critical components to not only to drive NDC revision and ambition raising, but also to determine the effectiveness and success of implementation. Therefore, a large number of countries supported under the Climate Promise have continued to ensure this important principle is meaningfully embedded in translating NDC commitments into actions. Two important aspects of this are gender and youth.

**Efforts to mainstream gender have helped countries strengthen the institutional capacity and systems to plan and implement gender-responsive climate action.** For example, in Belize, UNDP supported efforts to ensure gender considerations in its National Climate Change Policy Strategy and Master Plan (NCCPSMP), whose updating process was triggered by the NDC and LEDS development processes. To support a gender-responsive approach, the NCCPSMP included sector-specific gender and vulnerable group analyses and proposed key actions to support sectoral gender mainstreaming. As a result, the NCCPSMP has identified 196 indices related to gender and vulnerable groups to be included in relevant goals and targets for its 2021-2025 implementation plan. In **Cote D'Ivoire**, the Ministry of Women, Family and Children has strengthened its participation in the country's climate change and NDC coordination and revision processes. The Ministry was an integral member of the Gender and Climate Coordination Platform which provided gender mainstreaming capacity building and support to sectoral gender focal points. In 2021, a MoU was signed by the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development and the Minister of Women to enhance collaboration on climate and gender mainstreaming. In **Nepal**, NDC implementation plans for the energy and agriculture sectors were developed under the leadership of national sectoral ministries to support NDC implementation. The process was participatory and took an inclusive approach, incorporating

### Gender-responsiveness

**117 Climate Promise-supported countries have committed to strengthening gender considerations in advancing the implementation of NDCs.** Countries have achieved key milestones for gender integration across critical areas of effective governance, inclusive planning and budgeting, and integrated policy and financing frameworks. These include institutional capacities and coordination mechanisms as well as transparency and accountability systems. More concretely, **78% of countries undertook consultations with women's groups in policy planning processes, 45% strengthened gender mainstreaming in planning processes, 41% undertook a gender analysis to inform national and sectoral policies and plans, 33% included national gender institutions as part of NDC coordination mechanisms, and 15% strengthened the gender responsiveness of their climate finance or budgeting systems (Figure 17).**

**Figure 17. Number of Climate Promise-supported countries with reported progress on ensuring gender-responsive NDC enhancement and implementation**



## Belize

### Strong political will leads to successful NDC alignment with SDGs

Belize's commitments in its updated NDC and Low-Emissions Developed Strategy (LEDS) demonstrate the leadership of SIDS in stepping up ambition in line with the SDGs. Following the 2020 general election, Belize implemented an ambitious agenda ("Manifesto for Change") for sustainable development and climate change. This translated into the establishment of a new Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, and promoting of Belize as a green and sustainable country. In doing so, the government built on the years of work to identify Belize's vulnerability and articulate the importance of climate change to the country's sustainable development pathway.

Furthermore, the NDC and LEDS development processes were more open and transparent. In particular, the review and alignment of NDC targets with the country's sustainable development agenda were followed at political level and a wide participation of stakeholders was encouraged. Work with different entities to build capacities and

enable their participation to the process was done as well. As a result, Belize shifted from action only commitments in the first NDC to a quantifiable reduction target in the updated NDC which is reflective of its national development plans. The updated NDC also includes concrete sectoral mitigation and adaptation targets and measures, costing of implementation, and clear links to the SDGs. The LEDS is fully aligned with the updated NDC, adopting a greener development and sustainable pathway.

UNDP, together with key partners of the NDC Partnership, was instrumental in supporting the NDC revision process and was the main partner to support the development of Belize's LEDS. This included an SDG investor mapping process which aimed to explore investment opportunities from the updated NDC and the new LEDS, as well as the national mitigation strategy and action plan. In November 2021, an SDG Investor Map was presented at the National Investor Forum, which attracted more than 1,500 private sector investment entities.



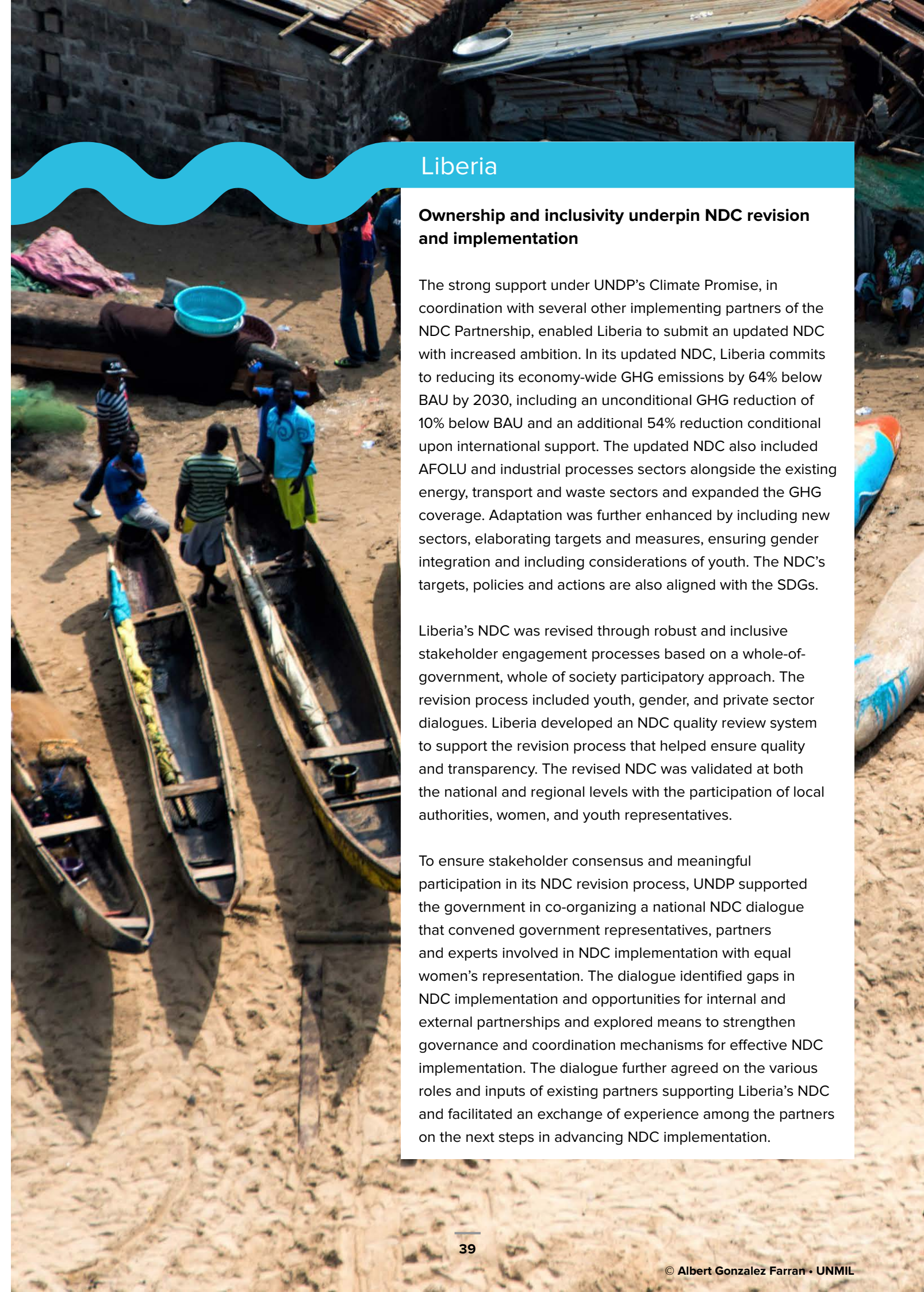
comments from national and provincial government, private sector, youth, women's groups, and academia. As Bhutan's NDC included specific sectoral targets on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), the implementation plans include corresponding GESI outcomes, outputs, and key performance indicators. In **Liberia**, a gender-responsive NDC financing strategy (2021-2025) has been developed with gender disaggregated data and clearly defining gender roles in the NDC.



## Turning youth considerations into action

**As an impressive 97% of Climate Promise-supported countries have recognized the roles of youth in their renewed climate pledges, UNDP is continuing to prioritize efforts to support countries to translate these intentions into meaningful actions that continue to involve and benefit young people.** For example, UNDP supported **South Africa** in strengthening public engagement mechanisms, with a focus on women and youth, and by supporting initiatives that empower and capacitate youth on climate issues. A youth consultation process was undertaken, including the launch of a youth survey framework focused on climate change, energy and just transition, which was piloted with 150 youth participants. An outreach plan to reach 10,000 youth respondents is planned in 2022. UNDP will continue to strengthen the youth constituency as well as climate awareness and action among youth through the Youth Barometer survey work and through new cooperation with UNICEF. In **Zimbabwe**, youth voices and participation have been central to the NDC revision process. Various consultations were supported throughout the country, as well as a youth submission to the Minister of Environment on World Environment Day. With support from UNDP, Zimbabwean youth developed a youth policy paper that was considered in the NDC revision process and informed the implementation phase. In **Nepal**, youth considerations were incorporated into the NDC implementation plan which is now being rolled out.

Drawing from these rich experiences on youth engagement and NDC support across the world, UNDP has developed new guidance entitled, **Aiming Higher: Elevating Meaningful Youth Engagement for Climate Action**, which will be launched in May 2022. This guidance is a direct response to young people's growing vocal (and under-served) presence in the climate arena. It provides youth advocates, climate practitioners and the wider development community working on climate change and youth issues with a practical resource on how to support and facilitate meaningful youth participation in climate action and NDC implementation.



## Liberia

### Ownership and inclusivity underpin NDC revision and implementation

The strong support under UNDP's Climate Promise, in coordination with several other implementing partners of the NDC Partnership, enabled Liberia to submit an updated NDC with increased ambition. In its updated NDC, Liberia commits to reducing its economy-wide GHG emissions by 64% below BAU by 2030, including an unconditional GHG reduction of 10% below BAU and an additional 54% reduction conditional upon international support. The updated NDC also included AFOLU and industrial processes sectors alongside the existing energy, transport and waste sectors and expanded the GHG coverage. Adaptation was further enhanced by including new sectors, elaborating targets and measures, ensuring gender integration and including considerations of youth. The NDC's targets, policies and actions are also aligned with the SDGs.

Liberia's NDC was revised through robust and inclusive stakeholder engagement processes based on a whole-of-government, whole of society participatory approach. The revision process included youth, gender, and private sector dialogues. Liberia developed an NDC quality review system to support the revision process that helped ensure quality and transparency. The revised NDC was validated at both the national and regional levels with the participation of local authorities, women, and youth representatives.

To ensure stakeholder consensus and meaningful participation in its NDC revision process, UNDP supported the government in co-organizing a national NDC dialogue that convened government representatives, partners and experts involved in NDC implementation with equal women's representation. The dialogue identified gaps in NDC implementation and opportunities for internal and external partnerships and explored means to strengthen governance and coordination mechanisms for effective NDC implementation. The dialogue further agreed on the various roles and inputs of existing partners supporting Liberia's NDC and facilitated an exchange of experience among the partners on the next steps in advancing NDC implementation.



## Partnerships

Partnerships – within the UN system and beyond – continue to be at the heart of Climate Promise support. Engaged with over 35 partners at national, regional, and global levels, UNDP is working closely with implementing partners to deliver coordinated and joint support to countries on NDC processes by leveraging comparative advantages and unique offers.

### UN System

Within the UN system, UNDP coordinates closely with the UNFCCC in sharing data and tracking NDC progress, supporting advocacy and knowledge exchange through Regional Climate Weeks and other fora, and developing guidance and technical materials to support countries on NDC processes. There is also a strong partnership with **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, with increasingly more work taking place around agriculture and land use through the UNDP-FAO co-led “*Support Programme on Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture through NDCs and National Adaptation Plans (SCALA)*”, funded by Germany. This initiative is fully aligned with the Climate Promise support and active in 12 countries. Similarly, **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** is also providing joint support in a number of Climate Promise countries on issues such as circular economy, transparency, nature-based solutions and adaptation. In addition, the UN-REDD programme, a joint initiative between UNDP, FAO and UNEP, has provided partner countries with technical assistance and knowledge on forest solutions that can enhance NDCs. Most recently, **UN-REDD** published an information brief on [Realizing the Potential of Forests for NDC Enhancement and Implementation](#).

In December 2020, UNDP and the **United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)** launched an enhanced collaboration agreement. One focus area is to accelerate implementation of the Paris Agreement, including exploring strategies to strengthen urbanization dimensions in the

NDCs and integrate NDC implementation into local development plans. UNDP also continues to work closely with the **International Labour Organization (ILO)** to support countries in incorporating just transition principles into NDC development and implementation. Joint support is provided in several countries, ranging from national evidence/data gathering on NDC impacts to provision of capacity building support for green jobs assessments.

UNDP is also working closely with the **World Bank** through its Climate Support Facility to provide integrated support to countries on designing and evaluating COVID-19 green recovery measures that incorporate NDCs and climate action. As an active member of the Green Recovery M&E Technical Working Group led by the World Bank, UNDP contributed substantially to the development of a Green Recovery M&E Technical Note. A joint webinar was also organized to present conceptual frameworks, tools, and methodologies developed by the two organizations. UNDP and the World Bank will continue discussions on supporting joint programming in a select countries to apply the green recovery frameworks.

In addition to implementing partners, UNDP continues to strengthen partnerships with key investors as the Climate Promise scales up support on NDC implementation in its second phase. This includes both longstanding partners who have been fundamental to supporting the NDC work upon which the Climate Promise builds, including **Germany, the European Union, Sweden, Spain, and Italy**, as well as new donors joining the latest phase of the Climate Promise – including **Japan, United Kingdom, Belgium, Iceland, and Portugal**.

The government of **Germany** remains the largest donor to the Climate Promise and the NDC Support Programme combined. Both the Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) have also recently contributed to the second phase of the Climate Promise.

“UNDP’s Climate Promise is a strategically important program, which we are happy to support.”

**Pórdís Kolbrún R. Gylfadóttir, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Development Cooperation of Iceland**

The government of **Japan** is providing a major contribution to chart pathways for developing countries to implement their NDCs. This contribution will support work to realize national targets in 23 countries and territories across the Asia-Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, Africa, and Arab States regions. Support will accelerate climate action that leads to clean energy and net-zero pathways and helps vulnerable communities and fragile settings to be more resilient to climate impacts.

The Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) of the **United Kingdom** has joined the Climate Promise with a contribution to support countries to achieving their forests, land and nature targets of their NDCs. This support will specifically assist countries in fulfilling the Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use.

**Belgium** has invested in the Climate Promise to provide support to countries on enhancing climate transparency. The support will specifically help to strengthen countries’ climate data and transparency frameworks to enable the proper tracking of NDCs. It will be delivered through support to French- and Portuguese-speaking countries, and foster South-South and North-South learning exchanges, complementing the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) global support programme implemented by UNEP, GEF-funded enabling activities, and national CBIT projects.

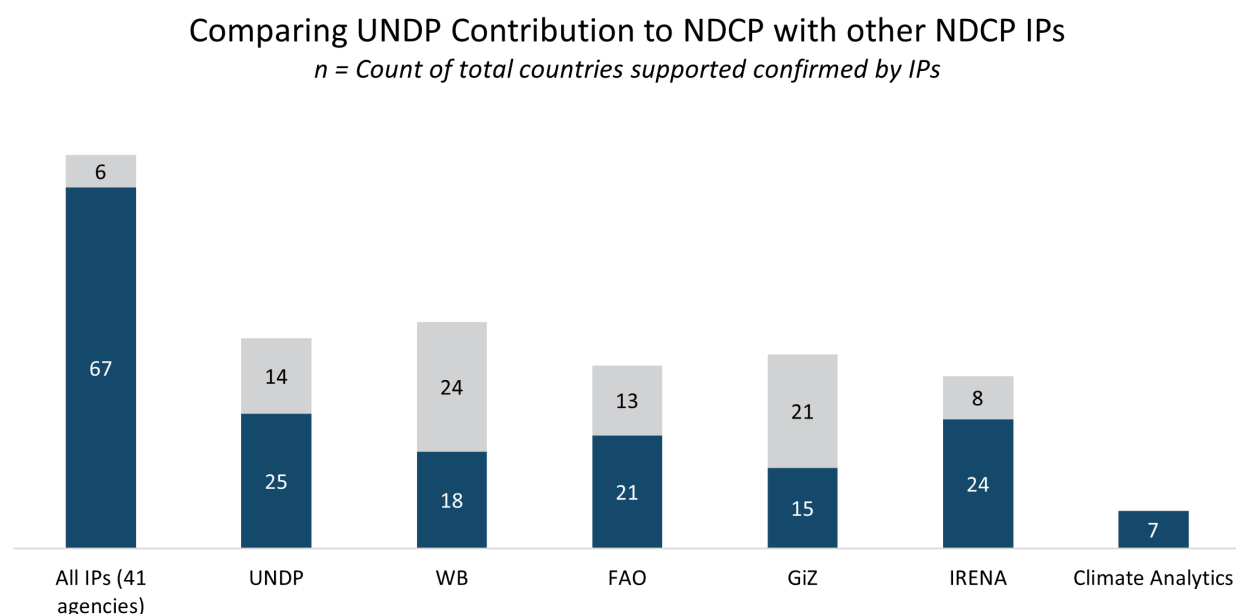
Directly following the Climate Promise phase two launch at COP26, **Iceland** joined the Climate Promise to support climate action in vulnerable

countries. With a particular interest in advancing gender equality in NDC implementation, Iceland becomes the largest per capita donor to the Climate Promise.

**The Climate Promise leverages the collective of the NDC Partnership (NDCP) and is fully aligned with the NDCP’s 2021-2025 Work Programme. UNDP is one of the largest implementers of the NDCP, alongside the World Bank, FAO and the German government.** UNDP continues to mobilize a global network of support on the ground across over 120 countries and territories. Among these, 85 countries are members of the NDCP, reflecting almost 90% of all developing country Partnership members. UNDP’s strong presence in over 170 countries and territories, and the well-established connections with partner governments from heads of state/government-level to Ministries of Finance and Planning to Ministries of Environment, are helping to closely connect the NDC-agenda with the SDG agenda and countries’ development priorities.

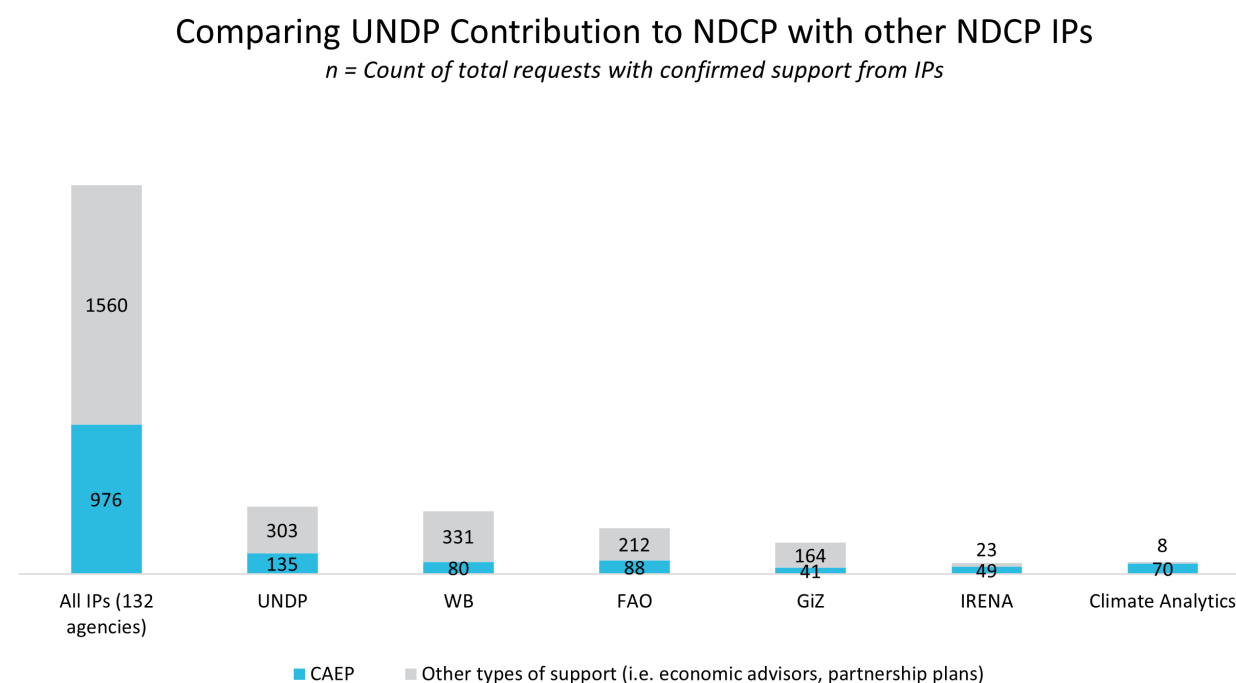
UNDP has responded directly to over 430 activities in 39 member countries that have been requested through the NDC Partnership mechanisms (Figures 18 and 19). The largest share is within the Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP) initiative, with 25 countries and 135 activities supported. In addition, UNDP continues to be an active member on the NDCP Steering Committee and in various NDCP task forces, including the Finance Taskforce, the Major Emerging Economies Taskforce, and Economic Advisory Thematic Expert group.

**Figure 18. Number of NDCP countries supported by UNDP and other key implementing partners**



Source: Data from NDCP's kNook Dashboard analysed on 29 March 2022.

**Figure 19. Implementing partner response rates to NDCP country support requests**



Source: Data from NDCP's kNook Dashboard analysed on 29 March 2022.

## Advocacy, Knowledge, and Communications

Advocacy, knowledge, and communications are central to regularly sharing results, successes, and experiences from the Climate Promise with partners and the public. Since its inception in 2019, the Climate Promise has been featured strongly at UNFCCC climate conferences to both highlight the leadership of developing countries in climate action and ambition and to show that the Paris Agreement stands strong.

**Throughout 2021, the Climate Promise published more than 26 blogs and 20 photo essays, garnering nearly 100,000 cumulative views, and more than 25 publications/reports.** Some of the highest viewed stories were geared towards the lead up to, or the aftermath of, COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland. The Paris Agreement and NDCs are indeed making a positive impact through a multilateral approach.

**The Climate Promise has also been featured at 2021 Regional Climate Weeks (RCWs) for Latin America, Asia and the Pacific and Africa.** The RCWs are co-organised by global partners (UNFCCC, UNDP, UNEP, and the World Bank) in collaboration with regional partners and host countries, namely Dominican Republic, Japan, and Uganda. With over 12,000 registered participants from over 152 countries, many countries shared their experiences on the NDC process with support from the Climate Promise. The RCWs were recognized as a platform that enhanced regional collaboration on climate action and were reflected in the final text of the Glasgow Climate Pact (VIII. Collaboration #57) and a high-level COP26 side event – with an official handover ceremony of the RCW Global Overview report and high-level Communiqué to the COP26 Presidency.

Preparations are underway for the RCWs that will take place in 2022, kicking off with the first-ever RCW for the Middle East and North Africa, which recently took place from 28-31 March in Dubai, UAE.

**At COP26, the Climate Promise was again featured prominently in many events and meetings** as most of the developing countries supported under the Climate Promise submitted enhanced NDCs at or ahead of the COP. As noted previously in this report, the NDC submissions made clear the leadership of some of the most vulnerable nations in the world and the necessary support of the UN system to deliver ambitious NDCs. To celebrate this leadership, UNDP, in partnership with UNEP, UNFCCC and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, organized a **high-level virtual flagship event at COP26, Ambition from the Frontlines: Recognizing Champions with the Climate Promise**. The event included participation from Heads of States, Ministers, representatives of youth groups, the Alliance of Small Island Developing States (AOSIS), the LDC Group, NDCP Chairs, the UN Deputy Secretary-General, the UNDP Administrator, and Heads of UN Agencies (UNFCCC, UNEP, FAO, and IRENA). **The event marked the official launch of the next chapter of the Climate Promise initiative aiming to support countries in moving from ambitions to implementation.** A new Climate Promise website was also launched that is now also available in French and Spanish.

To contribute to global advocacy efforts leading up to COP26, a number of knowledge products and campaigns were launched. These included the **“Dear World Leaders”** campaign, the **2021 Global NDC Outlook report “State of Climate Ambition”** and the **People’s Climate Vote** reports.

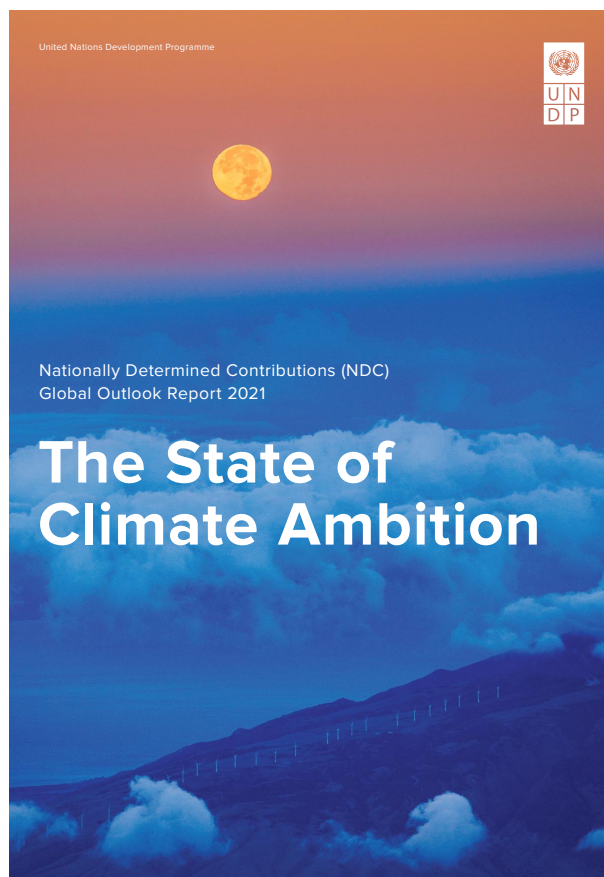


## “Dear World Leaders”



Launched at the margin of COP26, “Dear World Leaders” is an exciting advocacy initiative to provide a platform for global citizens, especially the most underrepresented and vulnerable voices around the world, to send messages to world leaders on how they want them to tackle the climate crisis. The campaign made waves in Glasgow, receiving over 200 submissions from 70+ countries. By the end of 2021, only two months after its launch, it had already attracted more than 12,000 unique visitors, who viewed the site 45,204 times and watched 105 hours’ worth of messages.

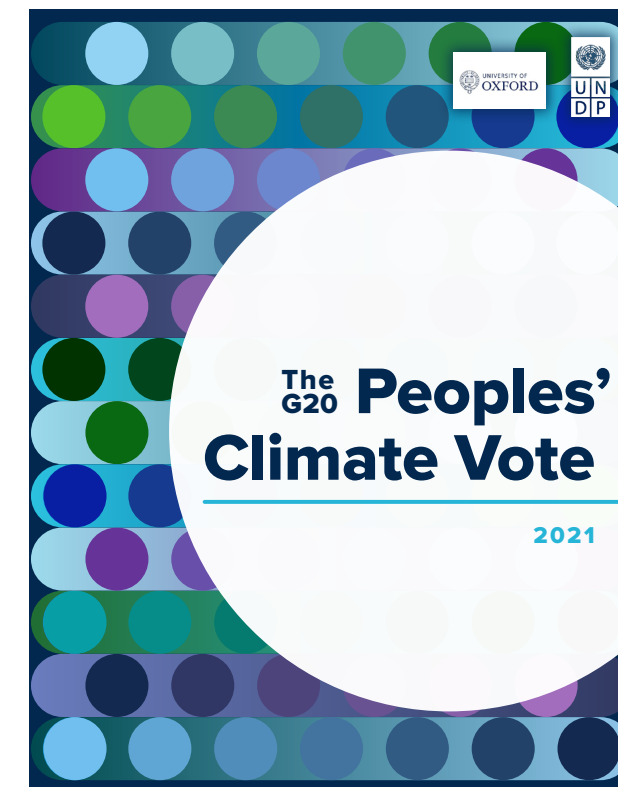
## 2021 Global NDC Outlook report “State of Climate Ambition”



The **2021 NDC Global Outlook report, The State of Climate Ambition**, explores how the world has progressed on its intentions under the Paris Agreement and dives into what ambition looks like for different countries around the world. The report was prepared to better understand trends emerging in second-generation NDCs and identifies who is leading the way, key challenges being faced, and opportunities being missed to accelerate climate action. In particular, it provides a detailed comparison between ambition intentions in 2019 (pre-Covid pandemic) and 2021, drawing on data generated by UNDP and the UNFCCC in the world’s first global stock-take of ambition in the 2019 reported in *The Heat is On*. An updated survey on NDC implementation readiness was completed in 2021, with responses from 122 developing countries, alongside analysis informed by experience and insights generated through UNDP’s *Climate Promise* support. The report has been downloaded over 2,000 times.

## Peoples’ Climate Vote

The Peoples’ Climate Vote (PCV)<sup>5</sup> launched in January 2021 is the largest survey of public opinion on climate change, with polling over half of the world’s population over the age of 14. **The findings of the report were referenced in the recent IPCC report (AR6 WG II: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability)**, citing that the majority of global population believes that climate change is a global emergency and urgent action is needed. The [press release for the Peoples’ Climate Vote](#) is the most read in the history of UNDP, with more than 17,000 views. The report launched in January 2021 also resulted in more than 25 interviews and featured in 11 of UNDP’s top 14 media targets, generating over 1,400 media mentions in 94 countries and 37 languages, as well as outreach via social media platforms including [Twitter Spaces](#). **It was estimated that the report had a potential audience reach of 2.4 billion in the first two weeks of its launch.**



### G20 Peoples Climate Vote: The G20 and Climate Emergency

Ahead of the G20 Rome Summit in 2021, given the extensive impact of G20 countries in the climate debate, [The G20 Peoples’ Climate Vote](#) surveyed G20 countries, **polling in total over 689,000 people across 18 countries** from October 2020 until June 2021. This includes over 302,000 young people under the age of 18. In many countries, this was the first time that the voices of young people are being heard on climate change – many of whom will be entering the workforce, reaching voting age, and engaging more in civic life in just a few years. This also means the survey has significant value as a predictor of where public opinion is headed on climate policy in G20 countries.

The main result from this vote was clear: on average, **65% of adults from the G20 countries think that climate change is a global emergency**. This perception **was higher among young people, at 70%, suggesting a trend of increasing support in the coming years**. These findings indicate broad public support for G20 leaders to take urgent action and step up on climate ambition. In addition, the polling revealed an in depth understanding of specific policy support by young people, such as promoting renewable energy -- which was generally a more popular policy among under-18s than adults. For example, the generational divide was as high as 13 percentage points in the United States. Support for this policy from under-18s was also high in emerging economies, with 64% support in Brazil and Turkey and 62% in Argentina. (More results by policy area and country can be found [here](#)).

<sup>5</sup> PCV is part of the Mission 1.5 campaign launched in 2020 as part of the Climate Promise, which used gaming technology to engage and educate the public on climate change.



# 05

## Lessons Learned and Emerging Needs



A number of lessons and insights have been generated through the support under the Climate Promise. These lessons relate to both the NDC enhancement process itself, and how this can be improved for the next revision cycle, as well as where there are continuing needs and emerging opportunities for advancing NDC implementation.

### Lessons Learned for NDC Enhancement

Among the experiences reported by Climate Promise countries, several common elements have emerged as key factors that helped lead to increased ambition, as well as critical barriers restricting ambition. These lessons will be instrumental in supporting the next revision cycles.



Among the key factors driving increased ambition, **strong political will** and an **inclusive, whole-of-society approach** were flagged highly by many countries. Nearly 20 Climate Promise-supported countries identified social inclusion, especially gender responsive planning and engagement of youth, as a critical need for future NDC revisions to ensure that no one is left behind. Furthermore, around 30 countries mentioned continued gaps in promoting national ownership, policy mainstreaming, and regulation/legislation reforms of the NDC. This includes engaging with national and sub-national stakeholders, and integrating NDCs with national strategies, policies, and legislation. For instance, **the Maldives** explicitly pointed out that their NDC ambition was aided by a strong political will from the country's government to show leadership among SIDS in achieving the Paris Agreement goals. **The Republic of Congo** underlined how helpful the strong political commitment of the government

was for advancing the NDC revision process, which was coordinated by sectoral ministries, with support from a broad range of stakeholders, followed by approval by the Council of Ministers and then adoption by the Parliament. **Panama** acknowledged the importance of stakeholder engagement as a key factor contributing to enhancement and ambition raising. The country made dedicated efforts to engage the private sector and ensure an inclusive participatory process that was open to all, including academia and youth. In contrast, in countries where the revision process did not get the full buy-in of key stakeholder groups or sectoral ministries, particularly at the highest level, there were often major delays in the validation and adoption of the NDC and related documents.

Many countries noted the importance of **technical and financial support** provided by UNDP and many other partners. This helped trigger additional ambition. Around 40 Climate Promise countries



stressed the need to further scale up capacity building and technical support. Countries specifically indicated the need for international technical support in areas such as data and information management, especially for national GHG inventories. **Eswatini** highlighted that the technical assistance provided by UNDP's Climate Promise and other partners, leveraging the coordinating platform of the NDCP, allowed them to undertake analytical studies necessary to support a greater degree of ambition. Many countries acknowledged that **UNDP is a trusted partner** and that UNDP's continuous political and technical support were driving factors for the enhanced NDCs.

Some countries stated that a major factor in increasing ambition was **adding new mitigation and adaptation sectors and/or including GHGs other than CO<sub>2</sub>** which were absent in the first NDCs. At the same time, many Climate Promise countries have identified sector-specific gaps and aim to develop sectoral plans in the next NDC revision, with energy being the most frequently mentioned sector. Sectors such as forest, agriculture, and health were also mentioned as gaps to be further addressed. For example, **Haiti** added several new sectors including waste and transport and fugitive emissions from charcoal manufacturing, which increased its

mitigation ambition. However, at the same time, **Haiti** noted that updated sectoral data and a limited GHG inventory were the main constraints in the revision process.

**Data availability, a better understanding of mitigation potential, and cost analyses** carried out during the revision process helped to strengthen mitigation targets, some countries reported. **Armenia**, for instance, refers to the recalculation of the baseline and the assessment of mitigation potential of different sectors as important elements for increased ambition. **Albania** and **Nigeria** also both mentioned that a comprehensive analysis made it easier for national stakeholders to understand what is at stake and led to more ambitious mitigation actions.

Regarding operations and process, identifying the right experts is one of the common challenges reported. Many countries stressed the **critical role of national experts and in-house UNDP experts** who supported data collection, data interpretation, and review of technical reports, among other things. Some added that a comprehensive roster of experts (including those within UNDP) to support various components of the NDC would be helpful for future work.

“The Gambia, even though it’s a small developing country in sub-Saharan Africa, recognized the severity of climate change, did not hesitate to ratify the Paris Agreement and submitted its first and second NDCs. The Gambia’s updated NDC is recognized by the Climate Action Tracker as a fundamental commitment to reducing global temperature rise to 1.5°C above business as usual by 2050. On behalf of the Government, I would like to thank UNDP, IRENA and ICLEI for contributing financially and technically to the updating process of the NDC.”

H.E. Dr. Isatou Touray, Vice President of the Republic of the Gambia, 9 Nov 2021 at High-level Segment COP26

## Priority Areas for Advancing NDC Implementation

In addition to the lessons learned to inform future NDC revision processes, the analysis and experience from the Climate Promise support to date has identified key areas of immediate support required to advance countries' NDC implementation processes. These needs reflect many of the same gaps identified in UNDP's State of Ambition report (2021), and continue to be reiterated as countries' priorities moving forward. Specifically, these include:

- Identifying, mobilizing, and tracking public and private finance and investments:** Among 122 countries surveyed in 2021, the biggest barrier to NDC implementation is access to and availability of funding. At the same time, while around 60% of countries reported some finance had been mobilized for NDCs, only 15% of countries had an NDC financing strategy in place to identify and define how further funding would be mobilized. **Tunisia**, for instance, identifies the need for further support in accessing multilateral and bilateral climate finance sources, removing barriers, strengthening private sector investments, and establishing effective institutional mechanisms to improve mobilization and effective use of climate finance.
- Establishing and/or strengthening MRV and transparency systems:** Data from the 2021 global survey identified the area with the greatest need for improvement as “putting in place systems to monitor and report on NDC progress.” According to respondents, only 4% of 122 developing countries surveyed have comprehensive systems in place. These systems will be essential to accurately assess where countries are in progress against their NDC targets and to inform further ambition raising. For example, **Bolivia** identified the need for support in design and implementation of a MRV system for the implementation of the NDC that links with its National Communications to the UNFCCC. **Botswana** stresses the need for

support on the digital transformation of its MRV system, including information management systems, clearing house mechanisms, and decision support systems.

- Strengthening legislation, policies, institutions, and capacities to deliver new commitments:** Developing countries have increasingly prioritized establishing the institutional structures and capacities to implement NDCs. Survey data showed that over two-thirds of countries have an inter-ministerial coordination and stakeholder engagement mechanism in place to support this process. At the same time, only around 40% of countries have an NDC implementation strategy in place. However, countries are even further behind when it comes to mainstreaming NDC targets into development and sectoral plans and budgets, with around one-third of countries integrating these targets into national development and sectoral plans or budgets and even less (around 25%) in sub-national development plans/budgets. **The Philippines** needs support in formulating national policies and programmes to operationalize the NDC and to mainstream targets into national and sectoral plans and budgets. **Turkmenistan** stresses the need for awareness raising on climate change among key ministries and strengthening of institutional and legal frameworks, including integrating NDC implementation into the mandate of state institutions. Furthermore, **several countries are starting to consider the institutional and capacity-building needs for engaging in Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and using carbon markets to support their NDC implementation.** For instance, **Togo** expressed the need for better understanding Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and capacity building related to climate finance, while **Turkey** and **Cote D'Ivoire** both expressed the need to develop a national framework document for the implementation of internationally transferred mitigation outcomes and Article 6.



One key finding from Climate Promise country reports was the common interest in identifying and leveraging opportunities to promote **just transition** and **net-zero pathways** as part of NDC implementation. While processes to

## Emerging Opportunities: Just Transition

A green transition is at the heart of meeting the Paris Agreement goals. Nonetheless, it also runs the risk of increasing social inequality, civil unrest, and reduced productivity or less competitive businesses, sectors, and markets. The preamble of the Paris Agreement underscores close links between climate action, sustainable development and a just transition, with Parties agreeing on *“taking into account the imperatives of a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs in accordance with nationally defined development priorities”*. There is no universally accepted definition of “just transition,” but various organizations such as the ILO, OECD, and some unions have put forward guiding frameworks and key elements. According to ILO, a **Just Transition** means **greening the economy in a way that is as fair and inclusive as possible to everyone concerned, creating decent work opportunities and leaving no one behind**. At its core, just transition is about a principle, a process, and a practice.

**More than 22 Climate Promise countries have specifically referenced just transition in their new or updated NDCs.** This demonstrates strong political and societal will to achieve just transition towards a green economy. Recognizing the need to manage the transition through the right policies and processes, targeted support and knowledge are needed to meet the increasing demands and turn these pledges into concrete action.

UNDP has been supporting countries to incorporate the principles of just transition not

advance a just transition, or develop an LTS are sometimes done alongside NDC revision processes, when it comes to NDC implementation these approaches become critical to driving ambitious climate action.

only into NDC revision processes, but also into implementation. **Sixteen Climate Promise countries are implementing targeted activities related to just transition.** This includes: (1) assessment of socio-economic impacts of NDC measures, including employment; (2) social dialogues and stakeholder consultations to promote inclusion and equity in climate action; (3) institutional and policy support to maximize climate action opportunities while minimizing and managing challenges; and (4) using COVID-19 recovery as an opportunity to ensure a just transition and invest in green jobs. The support is provided in close collaboration with ILO, as a contribution to a global cooperation framework developed between the two organizations.

### 1. Qualitative and quantitative assessments to measure socio-economic impacts of NDC implementation, including employment

Several Climate Promise countries have conducted quantitative assessments (e.g., modelling) to estimate the impacts of NDC measures on aspects including GDP, employment, skills, income distribution, and gender inequality. This has helped to understand the distributional impacts of NDCs and identify targeted measures for vulnerable populations, such as women and informal workers, in order to achieve a just transition. For example, in **Nigeria** and **Zimbabwe**, results from a national green jobs assessments using ILO’s quantitative Green Jobs Assessment Model (GJAM) have informed NDCs and just transition roadmaps in both countries. Likewise, in **Turkey** the same model was used to analyse

the effects of decreasing the share of coal in electricity production and increasing investments in wind and solar electricity. This critical work is being expanded to measure broader socio-economic implications of implementing NDCs and LTS targets. In **Serbia**, a qualitative baseline analysis was conducted for a **Just Transition with the focus on leaving no one behind in coal intensive regions and communities**. The study gives an overview of international best practices worldwide and provides a seven-step approach to establishing a roadmap and follow-up actions for a just transition. Building on this analysis, continued support will be provided to engage stakeholders under the Climate Promise.

### 2. Social dialogue and stakeholder consultations

Some countries are embedding social dialogue and broad-based stakeholder consultations in NDC enhancement and implementation processes to ensure no one is left behind. Adequate, informed, and ongoing consultation with all relevant stakeholders provides an opportunity to build a strong social consensus on the pathways to sustainability. Social dialogue is particularly important for designing a just transition, which requires negotiation, consultation, or exchange of information between, or among, representatives of governments, workers, and unions on issues of common interest related to economic and social policy. Governments, workers and employers are agents of change who share the responsibility for developing new ways of working that support the goals of the Paris Agreement. **Zimbabwe** and **Nigeria** conducted several social dialogues and stakeholder consultations to inform and secure public support for just transition. **Antigua and Barbuda** is planning to conduct social dialogues with trade unions, employers’ associations and sector representatives on the transition to a climate-resilient and low-carbon economy.

### 3. Institutional and policy support (including capacity building)

Policy support includes the development of social protection policies required for labour market adjustments and improvements in job quality and incomes, as well as advances in equity and social inclusion. This also includes investing in human capital, training, and education systems. For example, together with the ILO, UNDP supported the launch of the second inter-regional Green Jobs Assessment Institute Network (GAIN) training hub for French-speaking African countries in Cote D’Ivoire (Nov 29- Dec 3, 2021). Government representatives from **Benin**, **Burkina Faso**, and **Mali** participated in the training to understand the methodological approaches to measuring socio-economic impacts of NDCs and support just transition. Based on the training, these countries will undertake just transition analysis and/or green jobs model building as part of their future Climate Promise activities to advance NDC implementation.

### 4. Embedding just transition in green recovery

An increasing number of countries are identifying the COVID-19 recovery efforts as an opportunity to advance a just transition of the workforce and invest in green jobs. The dual imperatives of just transition efforts in meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement and inclusive COVID-19 response measures requires integrated action that addresses existing and systematic inequalities. Through dedicated support provided by the government of Germany, **Albania**, **Viet Nam**, **Jordan**, **Benin**, and **the Philippines** are conducting assessments to prioritize NDC measures that contribute to green recovery (e.g., job creation, economic growth, inclusivity, and social protection), with a particular focus on supporting livelihoods of those most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.



## A Step-by-Step Guidance Framework on Aligning NDCs with Green Recovery



To support countries in leveraging NDC processes in order to advance green recovery and just transition, UNDP has developed an interactive step-by-step guidance framework hosted on the Learning for Nature platform. The framework aims to:

- assist practitioners to identify and use existing tools to align NDC measures with COVID-19 recovery plans and to streamline financing;
- guide the development of sustainable recovery plans by leveraging the NDC and other climate measures based on their economic, environmental, and social dimensions; and,
- provide practical implementation guidance related to political engagement, financial feasibility and monitoring of green recovery plans.

## Net-Zero Pathways

COP26 was a milestone in advancing the agenda on long-term climate policy. First, with reference to recent scientific research, including the latest IPCC reports, the Glasgow Climate Pact adopted by all UNFCCC parties resolved to more directly pursue a limit of temperature increase to 1.5°C, recognizing that “*impacts of climate change will be much lower at the temperature increase of 1.5°C compared with 2°C*”. The decision also reiterated a need for “*rapid, deep and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions, including reducing global carbon dioxide emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 relative to the 2010 level and to net zero around mid-century, as well as deep reductions in other greenhouse gases.*”

Second, a number of higher emitter countries officially presented their carbon neutrality or net-zero pledges: India shared its plans to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070. Turkey announced

its plans to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2053. China reiterated its decision to reach carbon neutrality by 2060. While Brazil reflected its carbon neutrality commitment by 2060 in the revised NDC submitted in October 2021, the document also flags potential rise of ambition in achieving the goal by 2050 should market mechanisms under the Paris Agreement work well. The United States submitted an updated LT-LEDS with a formalized pledge to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. Other countries announced their long-term climate action targets as well: the Prime Minister of Viet Nam pledged the country will reach its net-zero carbon emissions target by 2050, while Thailand strengthened its commitment “to reach carbon neutrality by 2050 and to achieve an economy with net-zero GHG emissions by or before 2065”.

**These net-zero pledges, many of which were made through political announcements or statements at the highest level, must now be taken forward through concrete national and sectoral policies and strategies, including NDCs**

Figure 20: Type of commitment towards Net Zero, by number of countries

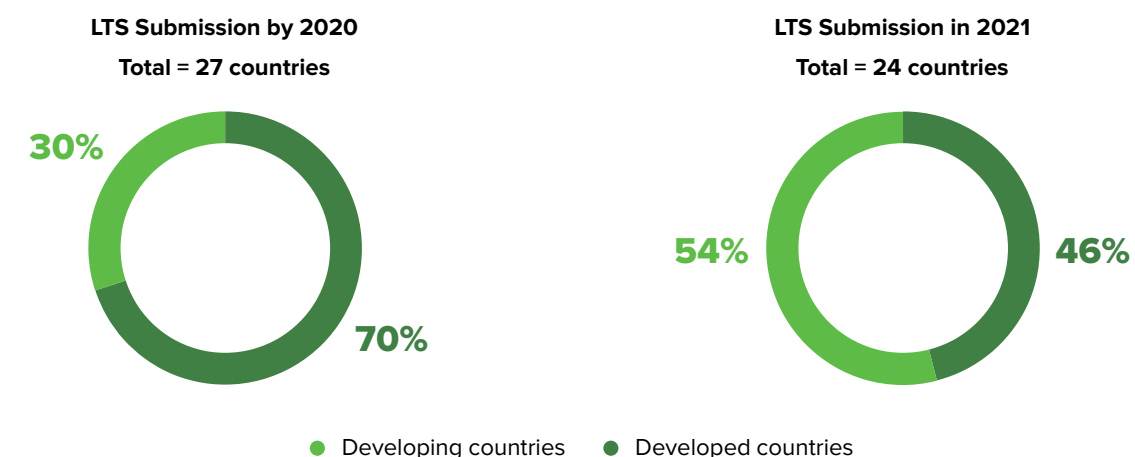


and LTS, and ideally adopted in legislation and supported with regulatory frameworks. Figure 20 illustrates the various levels of commitment countries have made towards Net-zero, distinguishing between G20 countries and the rest of the world.

In addition, these national documents can be recognised at the international level through official communication to the UNFCCC in a form of long-term low emissions development strategies (LT-LEDS or LTS) as suggested by Article 4 of the Paris Agreement. This step leads to strengthening the countries’ commitments, detailing of the plans, and facilitating international cooperation towards reaching net-zero emissions as soon as possible. **By the end of 2021, 51 countries had**

**submitted LTS** to the UNFCCC, with 4 countries (France, Japan, the UK and USA) submitting updated LTS to reflect more ambitious pledges and new circumstances. An **increased number of developing countries is also submitting LTS, although developed countries still constitute the overall majority of submissions (Figure 21)**. By the end of 2020, 27 LTS were submitted by 19 developed countries and the EU and eight by developing countries (including four SIDS and LDCs). By the end of 2021, another 24 LTS were submitted by 11 developed countries and 13 developing countries (including three SIDS and LDCs). The last five LTS were submitted from developing countries, namely, Cambodia, Uruguay, Morocco, Nigeria, and Colombia.

Figure 21. LTS submissions in 2020-21, developed and developing countries



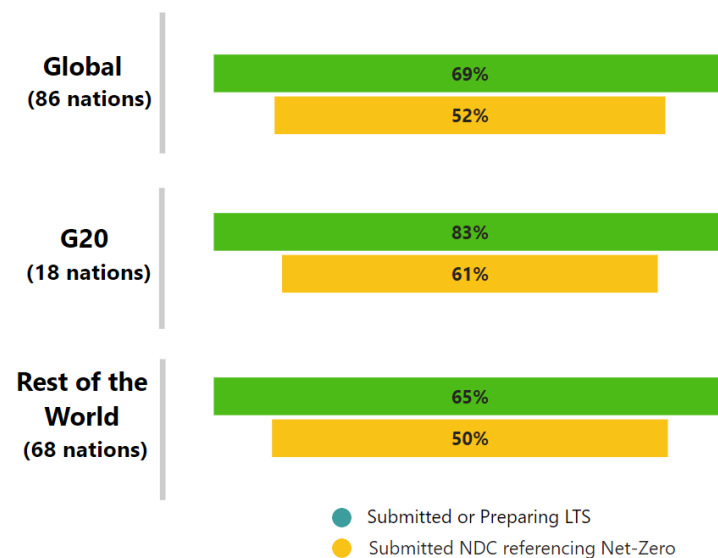


## Aligning NDCs, net-zero commitments and LTS

In many countries, concrete steps need to be taken to ensure alignment between the government's promise of a net-zero commitment, the medium-term targets set in their NDCs, as well plans for the preparation of LTS. As noted in Figure 22, just over half of countries which submitted NDCs made reference to net zero goals and nearly a third of them have not yet initiated processes to prepare strategies or plans to deliver their ambitious commitment. It is also noted that there is a significant difference between the G20 and the rest of the world, indicating more support is required for many developing countries

Figure 22.

### Degree of alignment between NDCs, net zero commitments and LTS

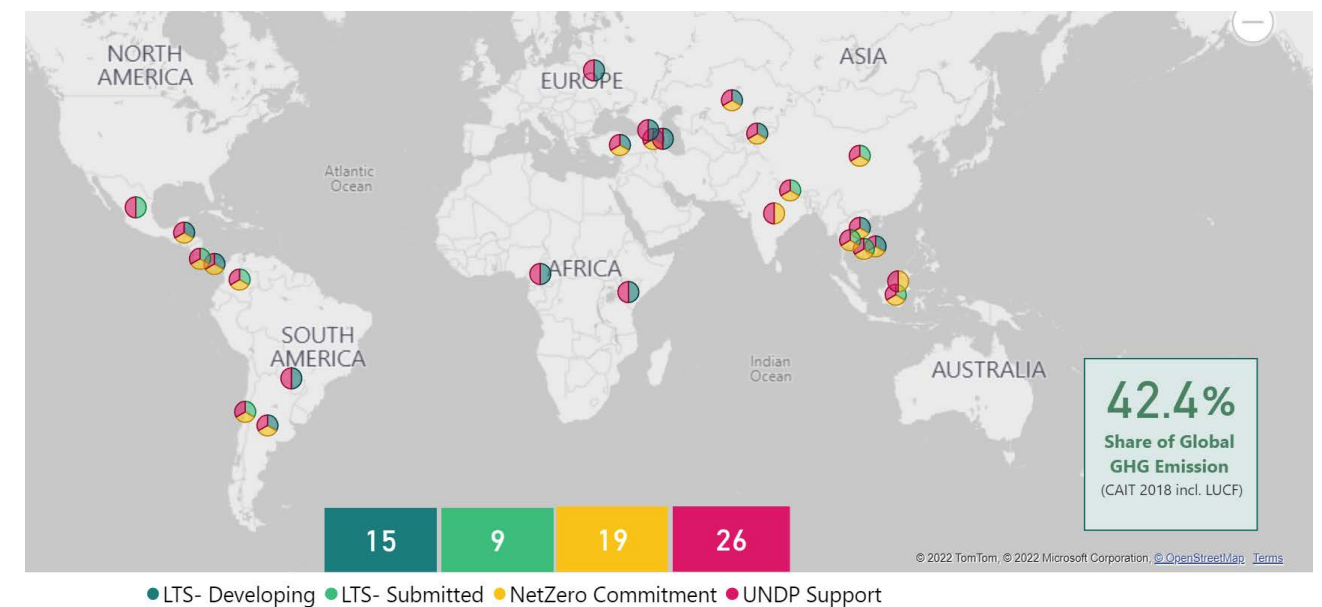


The Glasgow Climate Pact **calls for stronger alignment between LTS and NDCs** and the preparation of an annual global synthesis report to inform the global negotiations. Therefore, more LTS are expected to be submitted in 2022 ahead of COP27. According to a mapping done by UNDP, LTS preparation is underway in at least 40 countries and being planned in another 20 countries. A majority of these are developing countries.

**UNDP has been supporting 26 countries, representing 42% of global total GHG emissions, to develop LTS and/or strengthen alignment to revised NDCs.** Among these, nine countries have communicated their LTS to UNFCCC (Figure 23). This includes support through a German-funded global LTS programme, in collaboration with a

consortium of partners led by the World Resources Institute, to five high emitter countries – **Argentina, China, India, Indonesia, and Mexico**. It also includes support through the EU-financed **EU4Climate** regional initiative supporting development of LTS in **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, and Georgia**, among other activities. In **Belize**, UNDP supported development of a LEDES 2050, which is one of three principal planning documents along with the NDC and the Climate Change Master Plan. In the updated NDC, Belize also committed to developing an LTS aligned with achieving net zero global emissions by 2050. Furthermore, all of these documents have considered the country's Climate Change Gender Action Plan as a guidance to provide direction and ensure that gender and inclusive planning are an integral part of implementation.

Figure 23. Map illustrating countries supported by UNDP to develop LTS or strengthen alignment with NDCs



Currently, **Bhutan, Suriname, Panama, Gabon,** and **Sao Tome and Principe** report having **carbon-negative economies**, thanks to large forest areas absorbing more GHGs emissions than the countries emit. At the same time, further work is required to ensure these high ecosystem integrity or “intact” forests remain standing, and sufficient finance and innovative approaches are available to achieve this. Development and implementation of sectoral policies to reduce emissions wherever possible is critical for the carbon-negative countries as well: for example, the government of **Bhutan** developed a Electric Vehicle Roadmap 2021-2035 to facilitate transition to zero emission mobility by 2050.

**To achieve a global net-zero goal by mid-century, countries will need to develop and follow their own pathways that take into consideration economic, geographic, social, and other country-specific circumstances.** Each country can start with the low-hanging fruits, assess available low-emission measures under national circumstances through a cost-benefit analysis and take initial steps today on the road to reach net zero as soon as it is possible, drawing upon the latest IPCC science. International cooperation and support play an important role here to share experience, disseminate technologies, consolidate financial streams, avoid large-scale asset-stranding, and ensure just transition for all.

**While LTS are national policy documents, other stakeholders can also contribute and make carbon neutrality commitments at the regional, local or company level.** For example, the **Climate Ambition Alliance** and its members committed to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. In the European region, an EU initiative “EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy” supports local governments that voluntarily committed to implementing EU climate and energy objectives, including reaching carbon neutrality by 2050. A similar initiative exists across multiple continents – “Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy”. Race To Zero is another global campaign supporting businesses, cities, regions, investors on their zero carbon recovery paths, while the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ) focusses on engaging the private sector into the net zero transition. Similar to national commitments through high-level political announcements or statements, these commitments of non-state parties must also be turned into concrete policies and strategies to ensure they are prioritized and realized. The Un Secretary General announced on 31 March 2022 a **High-Level Expert Group on the Net-Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities** to develop stronger and clearer standards for measuring, analyzing and reporting net-zero emissions pledges by businesses, investors, cities, and regions. The aim is to finalize these standards by the end of 2022.





## Nepal

### Setting a long-term net-zero target in line with NDC commitments

In October 2021, Nepal communicated its [Long-Term Strategy \(LTS\)](#) to the UNFCCC, affirming the country's commitment to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and achieve net-zero emissions by 2045. More specifically, Nepal aims to "achieve net zero emissions from 2020-2030 and after a period of very low emissions to full net zero by 2045."

This is in line with the pathways proposed under its second NDC, demonstrating a clear alignment between the two policy documents.

To achieve this ambitious goal as a small nation, Nepal calls for strong policy making, technology transfer, and international cooperation to achieve net zero. While committing to accelerating action, it emphasizes the need to adhere to the principle

of shared but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement as per national circumstances.

UNDP supported the development of LTS as a contribution to the NDCP's CAEP initiative through provision of technical and financial support to undertake analyses and sectoral assessments on both energy and non-energy sectors, including residential, commercial, industrial, transport, AFOLU, industrial processes, and waste. Specifically, a technical report was completed to analyze risks and impacts, future projections, development context, and linkages to existing plans and programs as well as investment scenarios.





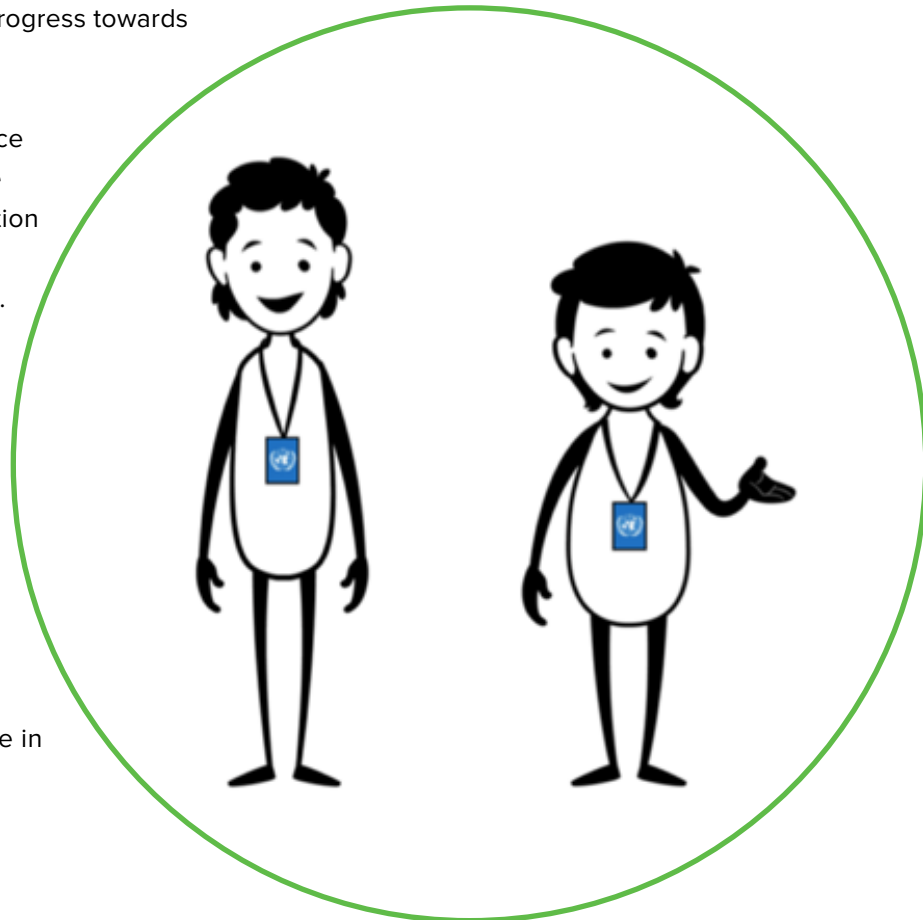
## Focus: UNDP's Moonshot Initiative

In 2019, the UNDP Administrator made a bold commitment: **To reduce the carbon footprint of global UNDP operations by 25% by 2025 and 50% by 2030.** As a global leader in the fight against climate change, UNDP has been climate neutral in its global operations by procuring carbon credits since 2015, but offsetting is not enough. To stay within a 1.5°C increase in global warming, GHG emissions must halve by 2030 and be reduced to net-zero by 2050. UNDP's "Greening Moonshot" commitment matches UNDP's call to countries to raise climate ambition through their NDCs.

### Latest updates

To achieve this ambitious goal, UNDP aims to reduce its top three sources of GHG emissions – air travel, vehicle fuel use, and facility energy – by 55% each via its Moonshot Facility. Investments into renewable energy, the transition to e-mobility, as well as policy changes and other measures, are helping UNDP make steady progress towards achieving its targets.

But what makes the real difference in UNDP is its **people**. Across the organization, no matter the situation in countries, UNDP staff are fully on board to **build forward better**. From bicycling programs to innovative waste management solutions, UNDP staff are leading the way on the green transition. Just recently, in collaboration with UNEP, UNDP launched an updated version of the Greening The Blue Tutorial, accessible to anyone, anywhere, **to inform everyday green decisions**. The tutorial is available in English, French and Spanish.



Meet Stick and Bean – our 'Greening the Blue' tutorial tour guides

### Greening Moonshot operations: Brazil

Designed in 2010, the UN House in Brazil was planned to set a blueprint for sustainable buildings in the region. Its architecture used large windows, favoring natural light and ventilation, and reducing the use of artificial cooling and energy. In its green spaces, the Cerrado trees were conserved, and plants bring beauty and well-being to colleagues and visitors. Social spaces, such as the open-air cafeteria, were designed to promote community spirit and leisure. In the same area, bicycle racks and changing rooms were installed to encourage the use of bicycles as a means of transportation.

In 2020, the green transition gained further momentum when UNDP, UN Women, UNEP, UNAIDS and UNFPA jointly invested \$285,000 in solar panels for the UN House. With 660 panels, the system avoids 18.5 tonnes CO2e/year. As Brazil has some of the highest electricity prices in the world, the installed 264 kWp are expected to save around \$50,000 per year in energy costs for the UN agencies, demonstrating that environmental leadership and cost-efficient operations can go hand in hand.



© UNDP Brazil

Learn more on our website:

<https://www.undp.org/accountability/social-and-environmental-responsibility/sustainable-operations>



# 06

## From Pledge to Impact



As the global landscape has shifted in the last weeks and months, the interconnectedness of the crises we face has become painfully apparent - from the impacts of climate change to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, to varying instability around the world, including most recently the war in Ukraine. Rising costs of food and fuel, financial volatility, and complex global supply chain reconfigurations have vast implications for a country's immediate and long-term sustainable development pathways.

At the same time, decisions made now can build resilient economies that address short-term needs while putting in place the foundation for long-term sustainable development. Whether through creating green jobs, strengthening resilience of agriculture systems, or increasing access to renewable energy, we have seen time and again how taking action to reduce emissions and increase adaptation can lead to immense gains for people and the planet.

The experience with the Climate Promise has demonstrated that NDCs can be a powerful tool to define climate action through inclusive and whole-of-society owned processes. We have seen that NDCs are not just a pledge from countries on climate action, but also represent a key political signal on the direction of sustainable development. Specific NDC targets, policies, and measures on energy, adaptation, nature-based solutions, gender, and other areas are the starting point for transforming economies and societies.

To date, UNDP's Climate Promise has focused primarily on NDC enhancement processes. However, as illustrated in the impressive results that countries have delivered through this first phase, the impact of the work goes well beyond the NDC document itself. Strong foundations have been put in place to ensure the NDC does not stop at submission – but is just the beginning of the implementation phase to realize these targets.

Launched at COP26, UNDP is now delivering a new chapter of the Climate Promise: *"From Pledge to Impact."* This effort directly responds to the overwhelming demand from countries to build on what has been achieved and rapidly scale-up support toward achieving NDC targets. The goal is to support at least 100 countries to advance implementation, with an approach that continues to recognize NDCs as sovereign plans for investment in key engines of sustainable development – such as energy, nature-based solutions, forests, agriculture, transportation, and green economy.

What does it mean for NDCs to be an investment strategy for sustainable development? The defined priorities, targets, and measures presented in countries' NDCs can become the guideposts for how to re-orient development budgeting and direct new investments (and redirect brown financial flows) – to build a more sustainable pathway for future development.

However, it is not a simple task. While NDCs describe the necessary components, further work is needed to turn the NDCs into the concrete strategies needed to take clear steps forward. This includes, for example, translating and unpacking these pledges and targets into concrete measures; understanding what budgets are required to deliver them; defining who is responsible for what;



integrating these actions into existing national and sub-national development strategies, budgets and sectoral plans to ensure delivery; identifying the different types of financing available and relevant for the various measures defined and putting in place what is needed to access them; considering if and how market mechanisms may be utilized in the context of NDC implementation; and ensuring all of this can be tracked, monitored, and then used to further inform future adjustments to plans and targets. Throughout these steps, it will also be important to engage all those that can contribute and will be affected by the measures, particularly those often excluded from these processes – women, youth, indigenous peoples,

and marginalized communities. They must not only have a voice, but also be empowered to contribute -- including in decision-making processes -- and drive these actions as part of a just and whole-of-society effort.

UNDP is also working to connect NDCs to net-zero pathways. Demand for increased support is high, and we must continue the momentum generated through the NDC enhancement process to capitalize on the ambition put forward by governments. To respond to these requests, UNDP is now actively rolling-out support to a first wave of countries under the new phase of the Climate Promise. Partnerships, both

within the UN system and beyond, will remain at the heart of UNDP's continued support on NDC implementation – leveraging comparative advantages of key partners, as well as the coordinating platform of the NDCP. At the same time, investors like the EU, Germany, Sweden, Spain, and Italy are continuing their support to the Climate Promise, while new partners like Japan, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Iceland, and Portugal have also joined the second phase.

Looking toward COP27 in November, the world is watching to see how countries turn their talk into real walk. The negotiations in Glasgow provided strong signals that the Paris Agreement

is working – with second generation NDCs estimated to put the world on a ~2.5°C pathway compared to ~3.5°C just six years ago. While it is far from what is needed to reach the 1.5°C goal, it was an important step. Vulnerable and low-emitting countries demonstrated leadership, significantly raising climate ambition, despite the COVID-19 pandemic and their limited resources.

Now is the moment for the world to keep momentum. With COP27 only months away, and occurring in an increasingly volatile and changing world, it is the first test for whether we are collectively able to demonstrate significant progress on NDC implementation. We cannot fail.







## United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

1 UN Plaza  
New York, NY 10017, USA

[climatepromise.undp.org](http://climatepromise.undp.org)  
[@UNDPClimate](https://twitter.com/UNDPClimate)

[www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)  
[@UNDP](https://twitter.com/UNDP)