




UNDP/Fauzan Ijazah

UNDP Climate Promise Progress Report

# SPECIAL EDITION: NDCS AND INCLUSIVITY

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## Executive Summary

- **UNDP's Climate Promise is the world's largest global offer on NDC enhancement, currently supporting 115 countries, in collaboration with over 29 partners.** The portfolio includes 38 LDCs, 28 SIDS, 14 higher-emitters, 42 fragile states. To date, eight Climate Promise countries have submitted their updated NDCs to the UNFCCC, a majority of which have increased mitigation ambition, and all of which have enhanced adaptation. (See [Section A: Part I - Overview of Progress](#))
- **While countries' submission timelines continue to be delayed, there is an encouraging trend regarding ambition.** Around 40% of Climate Promise countries are further delaying their submission into 2021, with just over 50 countries aiming to submit by 2020, compared to over 80 in March (this number continues to decline). Nonetheless, as of November, 70% of countries have indicated that they are likely to increase mitigation ambition (compared to just over 50% in March), and 97% on adaptation ambition (compared to 92% in March). (See [Section A: Part I - Overview of Progress](#))
- **Technical assistance to Climate Promise countries is being provided across 17 thematic areas, the most popular area being finance and investment.** Other common areas include Energy, Gender, Transparency and Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV), Nature-based Solutions and Forests. (See an analysis of requests in [Section A: Part II - Analysis of Technical Assistance](#))
- **A newly launched interactive infographic and article on the [Impact of COVID-19 on Climate Ambition](#) is available** on UNDP's COVID-19 socio-economic recovery [data platform](#), providing the latest intelligence gathered through UNDP's Climate Promise portfolio. A number of other resources and knowledge products are also being developed and rolled out, including both French and Spanish translations of the [NDC Quality Assurance Checklist](#), and a series of photo essays, blogs and articles. (See [Section A: Part VI - Knowledge Sharing and Resources](#))
- **Climate Promise countries have overwhelmingly prioritized gender, with 105 countries (91%) including gender-responsive activities in their work plans.** The activities are impacting NDCs mostly across three key entry points: strengthening effective governance, ensuring inclusive planning processes, and developing integrating policy frameworks. (See [Section B: Part I – Thematic Focus: Gender](#) for a detailed analysis of trends, technical support and notable examples)
- **A majority of countries are including youth-related priorities in their revised NDCs, a huge increase from the first NDC.** While only 40% of first generation NDCs included direct references to children or youth, 75% of Climate promise countries are prioritizing youth. Youth engagement is largely focused within 'whole-of-society' approaches, primarily through consultations, awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns. [Mission 1.5](#) is also being leveraged to engage and empower youth to inform climate change decision-making. (See [Section B: Part II – Thematic Focus: Youth](#) for an in-depth examination of youth empowerment under the Climate Promise, including case studies)
- **NDC enhancement is an opportunity to identify and promote solutions that address issues of injustice.** UNDP's Climate Promise is working to address climate justice through a rights-based approach, which also focuses on procedural justice, intergenerational equity and gender equality. The aim is to build the foundation for just and inclusive NDC implementation and future enhancement and responds to the Secretary-General's Call to Action on Human Rights (See [Section B: Part III – Looking Forward: Climate Justice](#))



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## SECTION A: PROGRESS SNAPSHOT

### I. Overview of Progress

UNDP is working with **115 countries**, including **38 LDCs**, **28 SIDS**, **14 higher-emitters<sup>1</sup>**, **42 fragile states<sup>2</sup>** on NDC enhancement under the Climate Promise. **Kenya** has now officially joined the Climate Promise. All countries have started implementation of activities.

#### Submitted Enhanced NDCs

Country	Type of submitted NDC	Submission date	Mitigation ambition increased	Adaptation component enhanced
Ecuador	First NDC	March 2019	Yes (sector specific)	Yes
Suriname	Second NDC	December 2019	Yes (sector specific)	Yes
Moldova	Updated First NDC	March 2020	Yes	Yes
Chile	Updated First NDC	April 2020	Yes	Yes
Rwanda	Updated First NDC	May 2020	Yes	Yes
Vietnam*	Updated First NDC	Sep 2020	No	Yes
Mongolia*	Update First NDC	Oct 2020	Yes	Yes
Thailand*	Update First NDC	Oct 2020	No	Yes

\* See further details on these newest submissions in the country snapshots below

Beyond the countries that have submitted their NDC, the following countries have **prepared their first draft of the revised NDC and are currently undergoing consultations**.

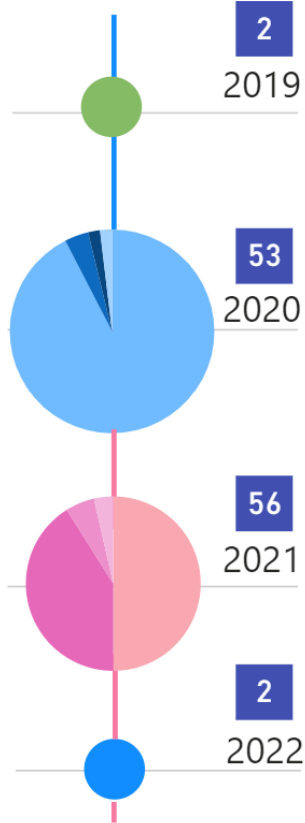
Countries with drafts that are expected to submit in Nov	Countries with drafts that are expected to submit by Dec 2020	Countries with drafts that are expected to submit in 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bosnia and Herzegovina</li> <li>• Grenada</li> <li>• Indonesia</li> <li>• Tonga</li> <li>• Lao PDR</li> <li>• Namibia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Armenia</li> <li>• Cambodia</li> <li>• Colombia</li> <li>• Georgia</li> <li>• Montenegro</li> <li>• Nepal</li> <li>• Panama</li> <li>• Serbia</li> <li>• Zambia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Honduras</li> <li>• Iraq</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Countries with % share of global GHG emissions more than 0.5%.

<sup>2</sup> Based on OECD States of Fragility 2020 which categorizes 57 countries as fragile based on 5 dimensions (Economic, Environmental, Political, Security and Societal). Among which, 13 are considered extremely fragile, 9 of which are Climate Promise countries.

## Latest Trends on Submission Dates and Ambition Intentions

### NDC Submission timelines as of Nov 2020



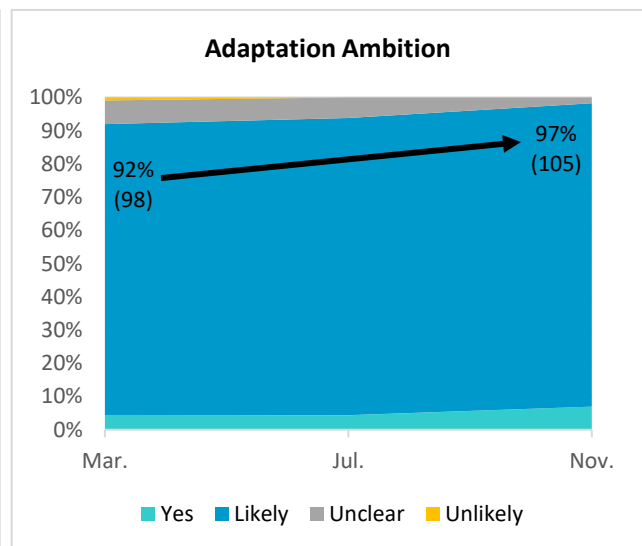
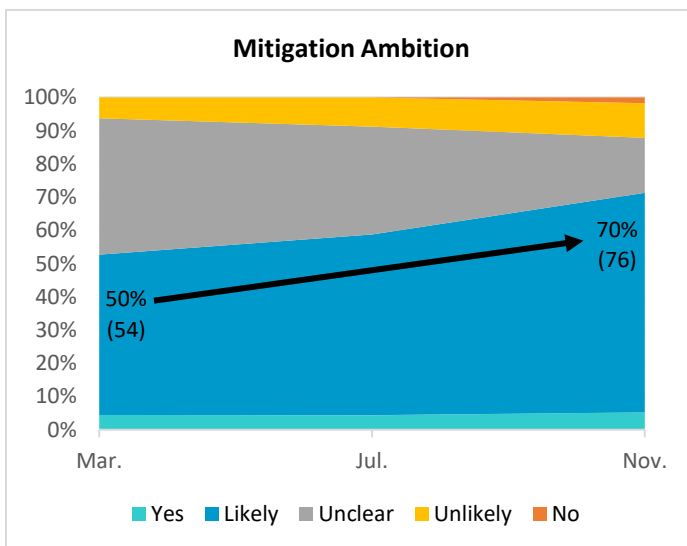
### TIMELINES:

According to the latest intelligence from UNDP’s Climate Promise, countries continue to grapple with the timing of their NDC submissions as the COVID-19 crisis and political shifts in many countries continue to unfold. Around 40% of Climate Promise countries are further delaying their submission. Of the countries originally planning to submit in 2020, 1 in 5 are pushing into 2021 and this number is increasing. This includes higher-emitters such as Nigeria and Mexico, while Iran is uncertain with a new parliament recently being constituted. Five countries plan to submit their revised NDCs earlier than previously indicated. This includes higher-emitters such as Argentina (to submit by December 2020 instead of March 2021 in order to be included in the UNFCCC Synthesis Report), and South Africa (to submit in Q2 2021 instead of Q3 2021).

Overall, as of November, just over 50 countries aim to submit by 2020 (including 8 already submitted), as illustrated in the visual to the left. This is a significant drop from earlier indication in July of over 70, and of over 80 in March and over 100 countries back in January.

### AMBITION INTENTIONS

The delay in submission timelines does not mean that countries intend to be less ambitious. A growing number of countries are now intending to increase ambition, despite the COVID-19 crisis. As of November, 70% of countries indicate they are likely to increase mitigation ambition – compared to just over 50% at the on-set of COVID-19 in March. Adaptation ambition intention also increased from 92% in March to 97% in November. The graphs below show change over time, highlighting the trend of countries likely to raise ambition.



Furthermore, around 50 countries reported on concrete ways that they are linking the Climate Promise support to COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. Many of these countries are aligning this work to the SG’s Recover Better Principles.

## MOST RECENT NDC SUBMISSIONS

### Country snapshot: Vietnam

Vietnam submitted its updated NDC on 11 September 2020. Approved by the Prime Minister, the updated NDC has a GHG emission reduction target of 9% (unconditional) and up to 27% (conditional) until 2030 compared to 2014.<sup>3</sup>

In addition, the updated NDC is much more detailed and concrete than the initial NDC. This is true not only in terms of the envisaged mitigation and adaptation actions, but also regarding synergies and co-benefits with socio-economic development and the SDGs. This will allow for better operationalization, such that NDC actions will be more feasible to implement than the initial NDC. In addition, considerable progress was made in having a multi-stakeholder engagement process for the updated NDC that included numerous consultations across society. This will also support implementation, ensuring that the targets and actions are grounded in and supported by the broader society.

In terms of mitigation ambition, there are some questions due to the shifting reference years (from 2010 for first NDC to 2015 in second NDC). While there appears to be clear increase in mitigation targets, this shift indicates that the absolute numbers of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions has actually not increased.<sup>4</sup> In response, the UN Resident Coordinator, with support from UNDP and in coordination with the Ambassadors of the UK and Italy, sent a letter to the Government of Vietnam<sup>5</sup> confirming the importance of raising ambition and bold climate action. This is in line with, and building on, the extensive support UNDP is providing to Vietnam under the Climate Promise and through the NDC Support Programme.

Overall, the enhancements in this revised NDC have been achieved through the ongoing collaboration with UNDP, both under the Climate Promise and through long-term work as part of UNDP's NDC Support Programme (NDCSP). Specifically, support for engagement of youth and the private sector was crucial for strengthening the NDC, including the organization of a Youth Camp and establishing a platform for private sector commitments. Progress was also monitored through the construction of a GHG calculator and training for the private sector. Further, UNDP supported a bottleneck analysis which helped identify entry points to address implementation barriers, and reviewed targets through a Macro Impact Assessment in the power sector. In addition, the support ensured the inclusion of gender considerations in the NDC, as well as a social media campaign. The UNDP Country office and partners also participated in a global webinar on Young people powering climate action in Summer 2020 convened by UNDP.

Going forward UNDP continues to support on building momentum across society around NDC implementation, including through the launch of a Vietnamese interface for Mission 1.5. Under the NDC Support Programme, a Business Forum on the NDC and the SDGs is also being planned on business opportunities in the context of climate change.

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<sup>3</sup> The Initial NDC submitted in 2015 included an 8% unconditional target and 25% conditional target for 2013 compared to 2010 reference year.

<sup>4</sup> Although the updated NDC has emission reduction percentages slightly higher compared to Vietnam's initial NDC, the reference year has changed - the initial NDC had a reference year of 2010 instead of 2014. Sources (USAID and US CIA) indicate that economic growth between 2010 and 2014 was higher than the additional percentage points of emissions reductions in the updated NDC, and therefore the absolute change in CO<sub>2</sub> has not increased.

<sup>5</sup> Communication was made to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Minister of Industry and Trade



## Country snapshot: Mongolia

Mongolia officially submitted their revised NDC in October 2020, which represents an enhancement in terms of mitigation targets most attributed to using an improved methodology and new NDC measures embedded in the estimates. Specifically, the initial target of 14% GHG emission reduction has increased to 22.7% (unconditional) and 27.2% (conditional) GHG emission reduction, plus an optional component on forestry that would push total GHG emission reduction to 44.9% by 2030.

The emission estimates in the Mongolia's updated NDC were based on revised baseline emission calculations<sup>6</sup> - 2010 baseline estimates increased from 21.9 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e to 25.8 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e, and 2030 BAU estimates increased from 51.3 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e to 74.3 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e. The 2006 IPCC guidelines were followed for the updated NDC, compared to the 1996 IPCC guidelines for the first NDC.

The updated NDC has also increased sectoral coverage in agriculture and waste, with some new measures in the industry sector. At the same time, the updated NDC targets are aligned with the national development strategy and policy framework.

In this context, it is important for UNDP, UNFCCC and other partners to encourage countries to use congruent reference years to make their commitments transparent and meaningful.



UNDP Mongolia/Nicolas Petit

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<sup>6</sup> The INDC listed individual reference years for its different commitments, often 2014, but also 2010. The revised NDC has 2010 as its reference year. Given that the emission profile rose between 2010 and 2014, the different reference year does not undermine the increased number of percent points of GHG emission reduction commitment; however, it makes the net commitment harder to compare than with equal reference years.



## Country Snapshot: Thailand

Thailand submitted its NDC in October 2020, with an unconditional mitigation target that remains the same as the previous NDC: 20% compared to Business-As-Usual (BAU) (or 111 MtCO<sub>2e</sub>). The conditional target also remains the same, at 25% compared to BAU with the same baseline year.

The updated NDC further expanded the adaptation component, incorporating the country's National Adaptation Plan (NAP). Six priority adaptation sectors are identified, including (i) Water Resources Management (ii) Agriculture and Food Security (iii) Tourism (iv) Public Health (v) Natural Resources Management (vi) Human Settlements and Security. The timeframe for NAP implementation is 2020-2037. The updated NDC also includes better integration of national adaptation action with the other relevant international agreements including the UN Convention to combat desertification and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Thailand has emphasized their focus on NDC implementation. There is a track record of NAMA implementation that has exceeded their targets. Most of the reduction is from the energy and transport sectors, primarily through switching to renewable energy. The current renewable energy strategy aims for 30% renewable energy by 2036. This leaves room for other sectors to step up their ambition and efforts.

Thailand has positioned its NDC as part of its national development strategy. With the 20-year national roadmap being a central development tool under the constitution, NDC targets and implementation are also anticipated to be further strengthened with its on-going Climate Change Act (driven in part by the 20-year roadmap) which is currently undergoing public hearings prior to the Cabinet's approval. The aim is to then move it to the parliament for debate and enactment in late 2021 or early 2022. In addition, Thailand is also developing its Long-Term Low Greenhouse Gas Emission Development Strategy under the Climate Change Master Plan. In September 2020, a Youth Camp 2020 was organized in collaboration between the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion (DEQP) and Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization (Public Organization) (TGO) with support by UNDP, gathering around 60 youths between 15-30 years old to discuss the country's policy, challenges and issues related to climate change.

## REGIONAL SNAPSHOT: AFRICA

UNDP Climate Promise Initiative is supporting 39 governments in Africa with their NDC enhancement (including all 6 African SIDS, 26 LDCs, and two high emitters – South Africa and Nigeria). A total of 78 % of countries have included new sectors; 37% new gases particularly targeting short-lived climate pollutants (SLCP); and 12 have included the health sector. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has led to adjustment in planned submission dates; but over 51% of countries still aim to submit their enhanced NDC in the fourth quarter of 2020, and the others in the first quarter of 2021 with very few in the second quarter of 2021.

The COVID-19 crisis has triggered a new orientation to the NDC enhancement, with response and recovery efforts using the NDCs as an opportunity in catalyzing equitable green recovery and green transitioning in Africa. For instance, countries are harnessing nature-based solution for mitigation, adaptation, building resilience and safety nets for communities, developing Low Emission Development strategies (LEDS), supporting the revision of existing green growth strategies and developing green growth and blue economy strategies. The NDC is also linking energy and green jobs e.g. in Zimbabwe, Nigeria, and developing investment plans and private sector engagement strategies e.g. Benin, Seychelles.

Gender and youth engagement have been embraced and taken on board in a large number of countries, with 47% of African Climate Promise countries integrating gender and youth into their NDCs as actors, and 44% specifically developing a gender strategy. The role of youth and women in ambitious climate action is



also identified as a priority in the new UNDP Africa offer and implementation plan. For example, Liberia has had a youth dialogue and youth have made their official submission to the NDC revision process. In addition, the establishment of MRV or M&E to enhance reporting, learning and accountability is underscored in 84% of work plans. Many countries are also focusing on the collection of data, conducting new studies and undertaking assessments to inform design and implementation as a science-driven process. Similarly, 90% of countries are conducting national and sub-national consultations which helps to establish national ownership that was absent in many countries' first NDC.

Several countries are officially launching their NDC revision process through inception workshops with high level participation of senior government officials including the minister of Environment (e.g. in Liberia, Guinea, Ghana, Cote D'Ivoire, Mali, Burkina Faso and Zambia). These workshops help to generate political buy-in and ownership. Building on concrete partnerships with other development partners and agencies is another element that has broadly characterised Climate Promise support in Africa. For example, Liberia is working with the EU, Conservation International and EPA to coordinate support on NDC enhancement. In Seychelles similarly the Climate Promise is working in collaboration with the World Bank, GIZ, IRENA, EU, Nature Conservancy. There is also a strategic regional approach in alliances with UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands in supporting the G-5 Sahel countries with their NDC revision.

The enthusiasm in engagement with the NDC process is demonstrated by the peer-to-peer learning spurred by countries to improve their implementation, for instance, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote D'Ivoire, Guinea in integrating gender in their NDCs.



UNDP DRC/Mission 1.5

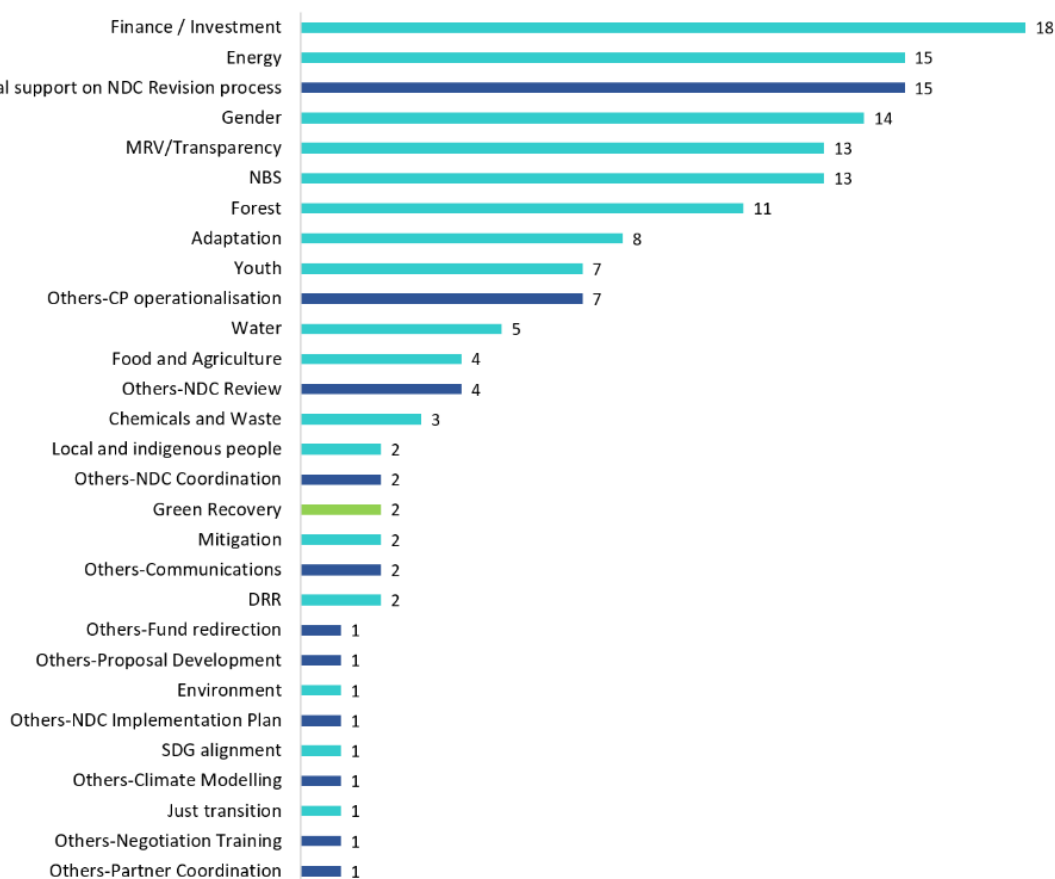
## II. Analysis of Country Support Needs

UNDP’s Climate Promise support operates across a range of thematic areas, and leverages and mobilizes the expertise of the UNDP’s Global Policy Network (GPN). **Over 150 specific technical assistance (TA) requests for regional and global support have been recorded to date.** The following analysis explores the requests in order to better understand country support needs and the type of support being provided.

### Thematic Overview of Support Requests

**The thematic area with the most TA requests for regional and global expertise is Finance/Investment.** For example, in both **Bosnia and Herzegovina** and **Serbia**, support is being requested to provide a quality review of the NDC finance strategies supported under the Promise; and in **Belize**, support is requested for hosting a private sector/investors forum to advance an NDC financing strategy and its implementation. In addition, **specific sectoral expertise is also highly requested**, including on Energy, Gender, Nature-based Solutions and Forests. **Transparency and MRV is also an area that is requested often**, as well as TA to support overall NDC revision process (i.e. leading and coordinating the entire revision and development process). (See detailed breakdown below).

#### Technical Requests by theme



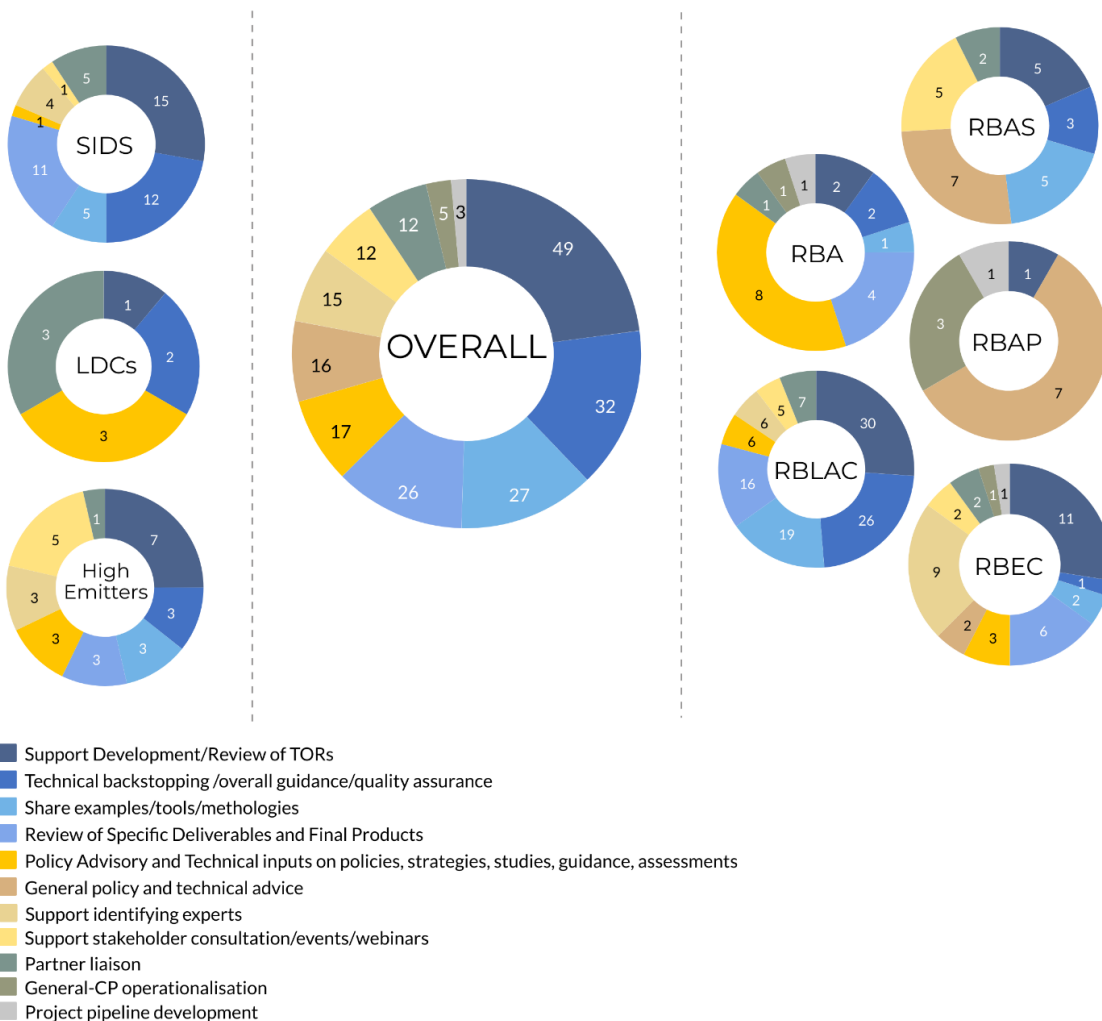
## Types of Support Requests

In terms of the types of requests, **support for the development/review of TORs is the most common service provided by regional and global experts, followed by provision of technical backstopping/overall guidance and quality review of key deliverables and products** (including review of the revised NDCs). Other common support requested include providing policy advice and technical inputs to specific studies and assessments; identifying experts for specific assignments; liaising with partners and contributing to stakeholder consultations/webinars.

Aside from what has been tracked in the system, informal feedback received through various meetings and discussions around the capacities and expertise required demonstrate **a strong need for support on NDC costing, cost-benefit analysis, financing/investment strategies, and NDC quality reviews, as well as in linking SDGs and NDC especially for Francophone countries in Africa.**

### Types of TA requests

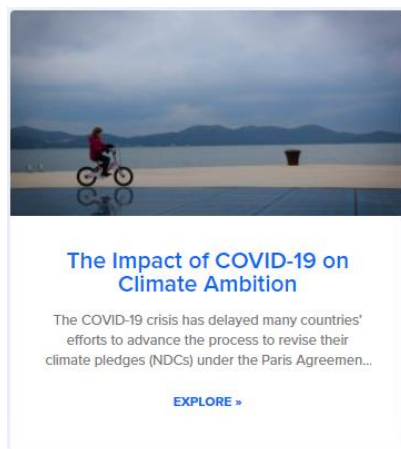
(Excludes GPN Roster)



Note: More limited number of requests have been tracked in Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean

### III. Knowledge sharing and resources

#### Featured Insights on UNDP's COVID-19 Data Insight Platform



An interactive infographic and article featuring information and data on how COVID-19 is impacting climate ambition and NDC submission timelines has been published on the UNDP's publicly-available COVID-19 socio-economic recovery data platform: <https://data.undp.org/content/covid-impact-on-ndc/>. It provides the latest intelligence based on data analysis and insights gathered through UNDP's Climate Promise portfolio. The page will be updated on a regular basis to reflect the latest information received from countries. It will also continue to evolve as new data and information emerges.

#### Other key resources

A number of resources and knowledge products have been developed and shared within the Climate Promise network to further advance and advocate for NDC enhancement. Most recently, these include:

- French and Spanish translation of the [NDC Quality Assurance Checklist](#).
- Photo essay "[Walk A Mile in Her Shoes](#)" to celebrate the International Day for Rural Women and showcase UNDP's Climate Promise and NDC Support Programme's diverse support to countries in better incorporating the needs, capacities, knowledge and leadership of women and other diverse groups into NDCs;
- Article "[Fighting Food Loss and Waste with NDCs](#)" to celebrate World Food Day and highlight existing opportunities that countries could leverage to cut loss and waste in current food systems and strengthen NDCs;
- Blog "[Climate Action Builds Momentum in the Pacific Amidst COVID-19](#)" to highlight on-going Climate Promise work and UNDP's COVID-19 response across the Pacific islands; and
- Blog "[How Cities Can Fight Food Loss and Waste through Circular Economy Approaches](#)" to celebrate World Cities Day and highlight what cities can do to strengthen food security and improve livelihoods, and how creating circular food systems can help achieve this.
- Photo essay [Life on Land, Life Below Water](#) to examine how Guatemala is working to monitor climate change adaptation in marine coastal zones through support from UNDP's NDC Support Programme and Climate Promise.



## SECTION B: INCLUSIVE AND NEXTGEN APPROACHES

### I. Thematic Focus: Gender



#### Gender as an Opportunity to Raise Ambition

Gender equality is referenced in the Paris Agreement as being integral to social transformation and effective climate action. Besides being a fundamental human right, advancing gender equality and women’s leadership in climate action is essential to tackle the climate crisis and ensure social justice. A global transition to zero-carbon and climate-resilient development can only succeed with transformational change at the societal level.

The NDC enhancement process offers a unique opportunity for integrating gender responsive measures in national plans at scale to support this transformational change. We know that women and girls play a critical role in sectors affected by climate change and that their knowledge is fundamental to adaptation and mitigation efforts. In turn, they must play a critical role in both establishing and realizing climate **ambition**. Addressing gendered structural inequalities that limit women’s ability to fully participate in and benefit from climate change policy and decision-making is critical. To **accelerate** NDC implementation and realize the climate ambition, women’s leadership and agency in key NDCs sectors will be necessary. Women have the potential to lead in mitigation efforts, such as driving the demand for renewable energy consumption at the household and community levels for lighting, cooking and productive use solutions. Integrating gender into governance, policy, planning, implementation, finance and monitoring frameworks will contribute to countries’ capacity development and ability to achieve more ambitious targets. While there is an increased awareness among the general public on the need for climate action, better understanding their national NDC and implementation process can help **mobilize** collective action. Women’s agency is a critical and necessary component of any transformative approaches to climate change and will be central to spreading awareness, support and strengthening collective action for NDC implementation.

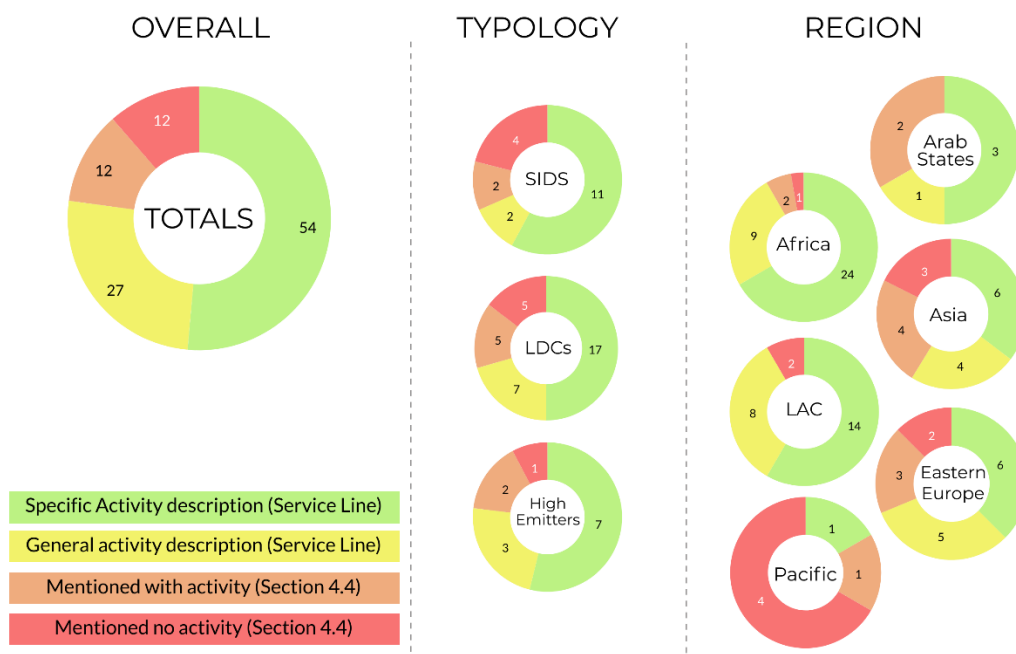


## Strengthening Gender-Responsive NDCs through UNDP's Climate Promise

### GENERAL TRENDS:

As of September 2020, 105 Climate Promise countries had included gender-responsive activities in their NDC enhancement<sup>7</sup>. A breakdown of the level of gender inclusion of countries by typology and region is as follows:

### Level of Gender Inclusion in CP Work Plan

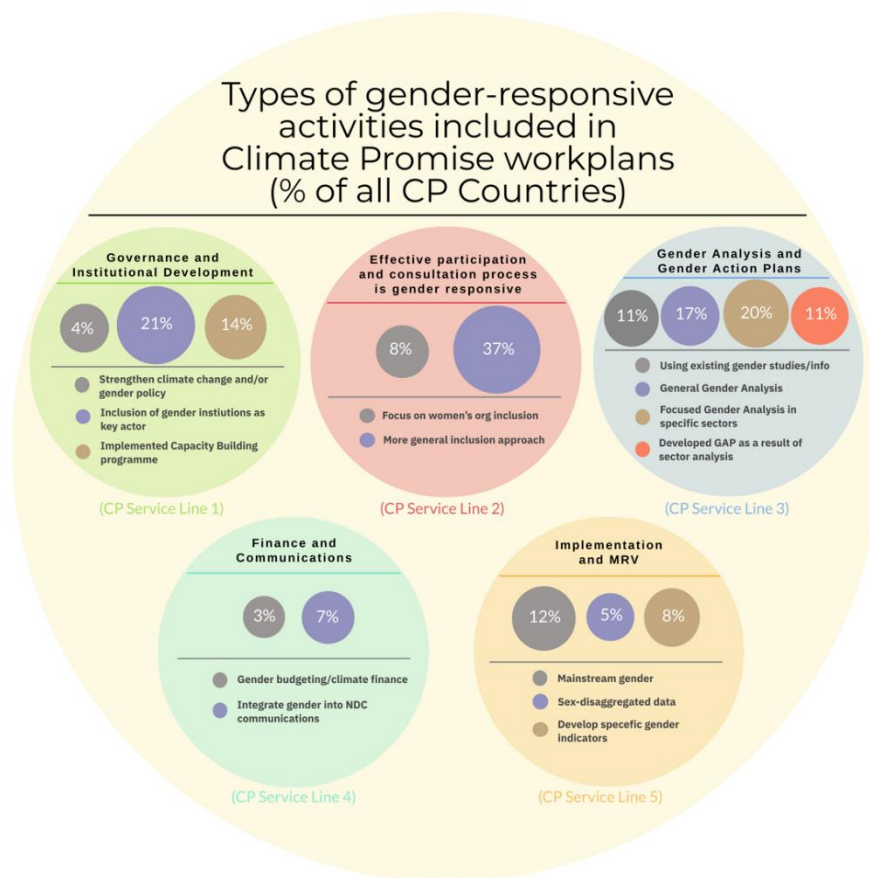


Countries are strengthening governance and institutional development by: **strengthening gender considerations into climate change policies** and vice versa, **ensuring that national gender institutions are active participants** in NDC design and implementation structures and processes, and by **building capacity of government stakeholders** at all levels on the nexus of gender and climate change **through training and sensitization**. **Increasing the participation of women and women's organizations in consultations** is facilitating more inclusive NDC processes, while **undertaking gender analysis** across NDC priority sectors is providing crucial information to inform gender-responsive mitigation and adaptation actions. More countries are including sectors such as waste and transport in their gender analyses, both sectors that are not traditionally associated with gender aspects, but that have impacts on women's work loads and quality of life. To address gaps in implementation and MRV systems, some countries are

<sup>7</sup> This includes country workplans with reference to gender in specific activities (across any of the five service lines) and/or under sections referencing how the work addresses gender issues. The colors assigned to each country illustrate the level of inclusion of gender activities. Green represents the highest level of gender integration (i.e. specific gender-responsive activity(s) such as 'carry out a gender analysis of priority NDC sectors') while red represents the lowest level of gender integration (i.e. broad and general statements supporting gender outcomes, such as 'ensure NDC is gender-responsive' but without reference to activities.)

focusing on **standardizing and collecting sex-disaggregated data across NDC sectors** and others are bringing sector and gender ministries together to **identify gender-responsive targets and indicators**. Lastly, in efforts to strengthen NDC implementation, some countries are increasing awareness and use of **gender-responsive budgeting** across sectors while others are ensuring they have **gender-sensitive communication strategies** surrounding climate change and the NDC process.

The following figure illustrates the ways in which Climate Promise countries are committing to making their NDCs more gender responsive. The figure shows areas of work where countries plan to carry out gender-related activities. This builds directly on the targeted gender support being provided to 17 countries under the NDC Support Programme’s dedicated gender component<sup>8</sup>, which has provided strong resources, tools and good practices being applied across the entire portfolio. The figure shows that more countries are supporting sector-specific gender analysis (20%) and inclusive consultation processes (37%) for mainstreaming gender into the NDC revision process, while fewer countries have indicated they will work on strengthening gender and climate change policy (4%) and gender-responsive financing mechanisms (3%).



<sup>8</sup> Under the NDC Support Programme, the gender component is supporting work in 17 countries. It aims to improve coordination and connection of the interlinked processes of climate change and gender equality by using NDCs as a platform to promote inclusive and successful development outcomes. In doing so, it ensures that gender equality aspects are factored into the NDC processes by leveraging analysis, strengthening institutional mechanisms, ensuring gender-responsive climate actions and disseminating best practices to enhance national-level capacities. The Programme, which works in contribution to the NDC Partnership, is generously supported by the German Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMU), the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the European Union and the Government of Spain. Find more [here](#).

## Technical Support

UNDP's suggested approach to providing gender-related technical support to Climate Promise countries<sup>9</sup> focuses on three key entry points that help make the greatest impact on integrating gender into NDC enhancement processes: 1) **Effective governance** through strong coordination mechanisms and institutional arrangements to engage gender actors and strengthening institutional capacity; 2) **Inclusive planning processes** built on multi-stakeholder consultations and political buy-in, through gender analyses to identify capacity gaps and planning priorities; and 3) **integrated policy frameworks** that identify how NDCs can both take into account gender differentiated climate change impacts while also helping to achieve or promote gender-related objectives. This three-pronged approach builds upon countries' existing efforts to systematically mainstream gender and in turn, is facilitating governments to enhance their NDCs through stronger gender responsiveness.

### Building internal capacity for gender-related technical support

A series of internal Regional Gender Workshops on gender responsive NDC enhancement have been held with the Climate Promise across four regions, with one still planned for Europe and Central Asia. The webinars accomplished three objectives: a) Strengthened coordination and collaboration for integrated approaches under the Climate Promise by bringing together UNDP climate change and gender focal points; b) Provided an opportunity to identify technical support that could be provided by regional Gender teams; c) share practical experiences on NDC-related gender activities, particularly from those working in this area for extended period of time under the NDC Support Programme. In total, 221 participants participated in these webinars, from country office, regional hubs and headquarters.

Building on a series of internal workshops to build capacity among different technical teams on gender-responsive NDC enhancement (see box), dedicated support services have been identified and rolled out in many countries through both global and regional teams. These services include global knowledge products on gender and climate change, such as guidance notes for including gender equality and women's empowerment in climate policies and NDCs, a guidance note on gender indicators, and sample Terms of Reference for conducting gender analyses, among others (see box for more examples of global knowledge products).

In addition, regional technical support is being provided directly to countries. For example, in the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region, further 'work clinics' are planned for governments and UNDP country offices to delve deeper into gender and NDC themes that have been identified by the region as requiring capacity building. In Africa, peer-to-peer discussions around the work on gender and NDCs have taken place in eight countries<sup>10</sup>. For example, a virtual workshop was held in September to support exchanges and peer learning between Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, and Guinea brought together UNDP and government representatives from Guinea's Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests to share experiences and lessons learned on strengthening their NDCs through gender integration. Although general support services are being provided to all Climate Promise countries, some regions have identified further levels of support tailored to regional and country needs.

<sup>9</sup> Climate Promise countries have identified activities related to one or more of these entry points.

<sup>10</sup> These countries include Comoros, Guinea, Gabon, Madagascar, Mali, Togo, Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire.

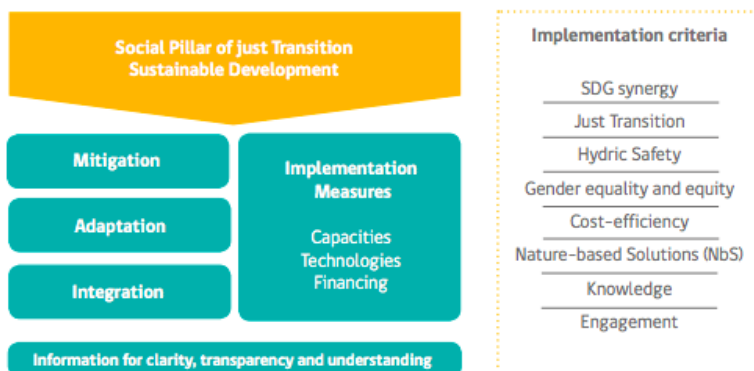
## Support in Action

A few notable examples from countries on how gender is integrated into the NDC enhancement process:

### CHILE

Chile received support under the NDC Support Programme and the Climate Promise to improve gender integration into the revision and implementation of its NDC. This supported the Ministry of Environment to integrate gender into its participatory process and consultations through the creation of the Climate Change and Gender Working Group. The result of this work saw Chile

elevate gender issues within its latest NDC which is now guided by a ‘Social Pillar of Just Transition Sustainable Development.’ This was done to ensure that social criteria are adequately considered in the design, application, and monitoring of Chile’s NDC commitments. Gender equality and equity is one of eight criteria that will influence Implementation choices and priorities in Chile.



To facilitate gender approaches, the updated NDC notes that during the implementation phase, existing studies and analyses on climate vulnerability and risk will be updated and expanded to address relevant threats, considering gender. Those studies will then serve as key inputs for the design of adaptation measures. Further, the updated NDC refers to a “Capacity Development and Climate Empowerment Strategy” that aims to incorporate a gender approach in all climate change related policies, plans and actions and to promote citizen participation especially of vulnerable groups, including women.

Lastly, the NDC highlights the important role of women in the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector. The NDC proposes targets that include a focus on gender to enable the development of more transparent, inclusive and targeted initiatives to narrow or eradicate existing gender gaps, and recognize women as “agents of change,” capable of providing a significant contribution in climate action.

### MOLDOVA

Moldova has submitted a more ambitious updated NDC that has considered gender specific issues and vulnerabilities, particularly through gender-responsive adaptation actions. With support from UNDP and funding from the Austrian Development Cooperation Agency, Moldova undertook a comprehensive process to develop the country’s second National Adaptation Plan (NAP) that covers its Agriculture, Forestry, Human Health, Energy, Transport, and Water Resource sectors. The second NAP was included in Moldova’s latest NDC submission as providing co-benefits to mitigation efforts. Moldova’s medium- and long-term adaptation goal is to reach a sustainable social and economic development resilient to the impact of climate change by establishing a strong enabling environment for a coherent and effective adaptive action with mitigation benefits, integrating climate risk into investment decision- making and business planning, while remaining socially inclusive and sensitive to gender impacts of climate change.

Technical support from UNDP helped facilitate the improvements from Moldova’s first NAP, which had limited gender integration of adaptation activities. Now, the second NAP is a critical part of Moldova’s gender-responsive actions under its enhanced NDC.



## ZIMBABWE

In Zimbabwe, UNDP supported the country to undertake a gender analysis of their climate change and gender institutional and policy environments and to better understand how gender is impacted by climate change across four key NDC sectors of Energy, Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU), Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU), and Waste. As a result of the analysis, Zimbabwe created a Gender Action Plan (GAP) which provides action-orientated recommendations for how to apply the analysis to support gender-responsive climate actions across its priority NDC sectors. This GAP will act as a tool for enhanced cooperation and action by all relevant actors, and in particular, by the Ministry of Women Affairs and the Ministry of Environment as the leading institutions mandated to ensure that gender is fully incorporated in national initiatives and policies and that to ensure environmental sustainability.

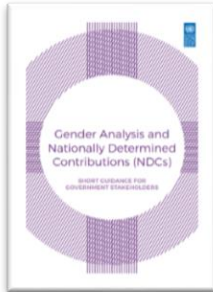
## PARTNERSHIPS FOR COUNTRY SUPPORT

One of the greatest strengths of UNDP's Climate Promise is its ability to leverage the resources and capacity of the United Nations system and its partners to build synergies in supporting the NDC enhancement process. Examples of such UN collaboration can be seen in our work to strengthen gender outcomes in NDCs. The following three examples illustrate these partnerships:

- **UNFCCC:** At the regional level, UNDP and UNFCCC are collaborating to deliver Regional Workshops entitled *Gender Integration into National Climate Actions*. These workshops are being delivered under the five-year enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan. It brings regional countries together, including national gender and climate change focal points, to share experiences in integrating gender into national climate policies, plans, strategies, and actions.
- **UNWOMEN:** At the country level, UNDP and UNWOMEN are cooperating to integrate gender analysis and targets in Cambodia's updated NDC, while in Ecuador the partnership supported gender mainstreaming in the first NDC and in the activities carried out in the Amazon Region under PROAmazonia. A third country, Mali, is also benefitting from this collaboration as UNWOMEN supports the country to improve gender awareness in its NDC revision process.
- **FAO:** At the thematic level, UNDP and FAO have collaborated to produce two toolkits that will support gender-responsive adaptation planning in the agriculture sectors. Both of the products are showcased in the knowledge product section below.



## KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS: GENDER AND NDCs



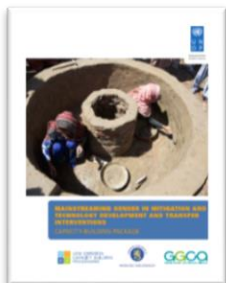
1. [Gender Analysis and NDCs](#): This guidance note provides an overview of why it is important to examine gender issues in the context of climate change, explains what a sectoral gender analysis is and why it is important for

the NDC process, and then lays out how to undertake gender analysis by describing its different components.



2. [Gender Responsive Indicators - Gender and NDC Planning for Implementation](#): This document provides an understanding of what gender-responsive indicators are, how they link to activities, a process

for developing them and presents sector-specific examples. The guidance promotes people-centered climate strategies, with better timeframes and explicit targets.



3. [Mainstreaming Gender in Mitigation and Technology](#): This capacity-building package has been designed for policymakers to guide them on how to promote gender equality

across all levels of policy and programming in mitigation, and to provide them with the necessary tools to do so.



4. [Toolkit for Value Chain Analysis and Market Development Integrating Climate Resilience and Gender Responsiveness](#): Developed in collaboration with FAO, this toolkit aims to help countries select and

analyze value chains to identify opportunities for strengthening climate change resilience and reducing gender inequalities, including strategies and good practices.



5. [Gender in Adaptation Planning for the Agriculture sectors - Guide for Trainers](#): In collaboration with FAO, this manual provides a curriculum to improve the gender-related knowledge and skills of key

stakeholders working on adaptation planning and related co-benefits in the agriculture sector. The curriculum that can be adapted to local contexts and planning processes and while it focuses on agriculture, the approaches it utilizes are also relevant to other sectors.

## II. Thematic focus: Youth

### Young people powering climate action and ambition

**Investing in, and partnering with, young people is essential, urgent and a democratic imperative**, given that youth represent a critical demographic. There are 1.8 billion young people (ages 10-24) in the world, expected to reach 2 billion by 2050, representing the largest generation in history. Youth are also particularly vulnerable, given that 600 million young people live in fragile and conflict situations and 1 in 5 of the world's youth are not employed or enrolled in education or training (with young women outnumbering young men, 2 to 1) – specifically, youth unemployment is about 3 times as high as those of adults. The COVID-19 pandemic has magnified the consequences of inequalities, injustice and the marginalization of youth and has simply exposed the full extent of human vulnerability.

**Youth's valuable experience and innovative ideas and solutions are still a largely untapped potential for transformative climate action.** According to UNICEF, only 42 percent of all NDCs contain a direct reference to children or youth while only 20 percent mention children specifically<sup>11</sup>. They are often excluded from decision-making and many face extreme risks to make their voices heard. However, their knowledge, energy and perseverance have helped create a global movement demanding bold climate action from their leaders, while also driving actions in their countries and communities. We need to support capacities and enabling environments for youth empowerment and better promote youth-led initiatives for climate action.

A number of strategies, frameworks and initiatives are now in place that can help empower and structure the contributions and engagement of youth in advancing climate action and ambition.<sup>12</sup> The UN and UNDP's response to COVID-19 has already taken into account youth needs and supported youth-inclusive and youth-led initiatives.<sup>13</sup> There are also a number of ongoing **multi-stakeholder youth global partnerships**<sup>14</sup>, which recognize the importance of investing in youth as changemakers and in support youth education and entrepreneurship, including with a focus on green and decent jobs for youth.



***“We have seen young people on the front lines of climate action, showing us what bold leadership looks like”.***

- António Guterres, *Secretary-General*

<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/youth-in-action/youth-advisory-group>

<sup>11</sup> Pegram, Joni, and Christina Colon. UNICEF, 2019, *Are Climate Change Policies Child-Sensitive? A GUIDE FOR ACTION: SUMMARY*, [www.unicef.org/globalinsight/media/646/file/are-climate-change-policies-child-sensitive-2019.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/globalinsight/media/646/file/are-climate-change-policies-child-sensitive-2019.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> For example, the [UN Youth Strategy 2030](#), Follow-up to the United Nations Secretary-General Climate Action Summit and the [KWON-GESH Climate Pledge](#), Appointment of the [Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change](#). United Nations Security Council Resolution 2535 on youth, peace and security (S/RES/2535 (2020), on youth, peace and security (op. 10)), Inter-agency statement on COVID19 & Youth (Inter-agency network on youth development, 2020

<sup>13</sup> UNDP Youth global programme (2020, forthcoming). Youth Now – A guidance note for a youth-inclusive COVID19 response

<sup>14</sup> For example, Decent Jobs for Youth with ILO, Generation Unlimited with UNICEF

## NDC ENHANCEMENT IS A KEY OPPORTUNITY FOR MEANINGFUL YOUTH PARTICIPATION



**To ensure bolder, more ambitious and inclusive NDC processes, meaningful participation of youth is critical.** From the design to implementation, from setting ambition to reporting and tracking, young people need to be involved in every step to ensure that the process incorporates youth considerations and protects future generations. **Addressing barriers and challenges to this participation** in both NDC consultations and related development of climate policy and strategies can help contribute to greater ambition and accountability.

**Human rights violations and the violence of excluding young people from climate decision-making need to be addressed urgently.** Serious risks of youth losing trust in governance and social contract still exist, while some governments continue to fear and repress youth.<sup>15</sup>

**The price of not including youth in climate plans is too high.** Many countries are starting to acknowledge the benefits of including youth and have considered youth as part of their updated NDCs.

### Youth Empowerment in UNDP's Climate Promise

#### A MAJORITY OF COUNTRIES ARE INCLUDING YOUTH IN THEIR REVISED NDCS, A HUGE INCREASE FROM THE FIRST NDCS.

Youth needs and aspirations were largely underrepresented in the first generation of NDCs, with only about 40% of NDCs containing direct references to children or youth. A total of 60% of NDCs address education in a broad sense, but only 24% specifically target or consider education of children and young people. About 23% do not mention children or youth or child-relevant terms at all.

However, a shift is emerging in the second round of NDCs. Across the 115 countries supported under UNDP's Climate Promise, **86 countries (75%) are prioritizing youth.** This includes both activities targeting youth as well as countries implementing Mission 1.5, which largely targets and involves young people. The specific youth-focused activities cut across several service lines and multiple thematic areas (e.g. human rights, nature-based solutions, etc.).

An analysis of youth-related activities under the Climate Promise workplans highlights several key trends:

- **Youth engagement is largely included in a 'whole-of-society' approach.**
- **The most popular tools for engaging youth is through consultations, sometimes with an explicit focus on NDC priority setting.**
- **Many countries use awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns to engage youth.**
- **Several countries are establishing new mechanisms to ensure systematic engagement of youth.**
- **The use of evidence, data and research also helps drive enhanced engagement and inclusion of youth.**

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<sup>15</sup> ECNL (2020). Closing civic space for climate activists. <https://ecnl.org/publications/briefer-closing-civic-space-for-climate-activists/>



## Technical Support

The GPN Youth global and regional advisors and focal points have been actively involved in providing support to Country Offices and Regional Hubs to deliver these activities by offering the following support and tools.

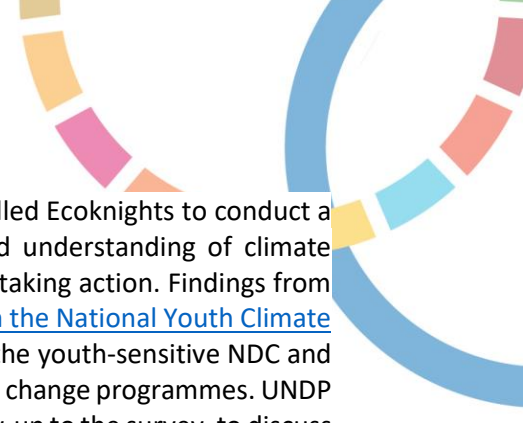
- **Tool and Guidance:** technical support is being provided to countries to identify and apply relevant tools and guidance to ensure youth needs and aspirations are meaningfully reflected into NDC revision processes. A global guidance package on Youth and NDCs is being drafted, in consultation with many countries, and will be completed by December 2020. This will be available to all countries, with specific direct support already underway in over 10 countries.
- **Global and regional webinars and on-line consultations:** three global webinars and three regional webinars have been organized by UNDP
- **Partnership engagement:** support is provided to broker relationships and engagement with key partners such as UNICEF and ILO in order to align agendas and create new momentum and opportunities, including one joint regional youth strategy with UNICEF in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- **Translating global policies and linking with global advisory bodies:** UNDP is actively engaged and supported the UN Secretary-General's recently appointed Youth Advisory Group on Climate Action. The work of this Advisory Group has informed country support, while at the same time results and lessons learned generated under the Climate Promise is being fed to this body to showcase the progress made in advancing youth roles in climate action.

## Support in Action

Impressive efforts are already being made to bring teams together and identify new entry points, targeting youth and partnering with youth organisations, movements and networks in supporting NDC revision processes. A few examples are highlighted below.

**LIBERIA:** UNDP, under the Climate Promise, is supporting the government to enable broad-based and exclusive youth participation in the revision of its NDC which aims to meet its emissions reduction targets in five key sectors (Energy, Forestry, Agriculture, Waste and Transport). UNDP, in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), recently organized a two-day National Youth dialogue with more than 60 youth organizations participating, including the Federation of Liberian Youth, Liberia National Students Union, Mano River Youth Parliament. Recommendations from this dialogue will feed into the revised NDC with a dedicated signed youth submission. Further engagements with the youth community are expected in the coming months, in partnership with the Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY) and Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE).

**THAILAND:** Action for Climate Empower (ACE) Youth Camp was organized on 21-25 September 2020, with UNDP leading two sessions on My Carbon Footprint and Mission 1.5 (Thai version). Four youth-led activities were initiated under Mission 1.5 to implement in their communities: to accelerate climate action on waste management of ethnic communities, nature-based solutions for water management, young leaders and food waste reduction, and nature-based health innovation. In collaboration with Youth-led networks, the results of an online environment survey (roughly 500 respondents) are being analyzed to identify engagement space and the role of youth on climate change and biodiversity action.



**MALAYSIA:** UNDP and UNICEF collaborated with a youth-led organization called Ecolknights to conduct a National Youth Climate Change Survey to examine youth's perception and understanding of climate change, identify key challenges and priorities, and understand how they are taking action. Findings from the survey is compiled into a report titled "[Change for Climate: Findings from the National Youth Climate Change Survey Malaysia](#)" and will be used to support recommendations for the youth-sensitive NDC and other climate policies and strategies, and to shape the design of future climate change programmes. UNDP Malaysia is also planning a youth-led dialogue on youth and climate as a follow-up to the survey, to discuss survey findings and recommendations and chart out priorities for youth programmes on climate change.

**NORTH MACEDONIA:** UNDP undertook a survey on "[Public Perception of Climate Change](#)," which found that 65% of Macedonian respondents younger than 25 consider climate change as the most serious threat to society. The same group indicated that individual behavioral change is the tipping point for ambitious climate action. About 26% of young Macedonian respondents expressed interest in taking climate action, with limited understanding of how to do so. As part of the Macedonian public awareness campaign, where youth was one of the target groups, UNDP was able to capture [testimonials of young women featuring their climate action](#). UNDP's Climate Promise is designing a new interactive online exercise which will allow young people to not only share their insights, but also make connections between their own priorities and the Climate Promise. The result will include a blend of foresight tools, online gamification as well as offline engagement in order to effectively engage the Macedonian youth to inform and engage in NDC enhancement and implementation. Through a series of real-life challenges, users will be able to do a rapid test on how they can make change possible.

**ARGENTINA:** Youth organizations have been exponentially increasing their participation on Climate Action in Argentina. In 2019, UNDP Argentina facilitated a number of dialogues with representatives of youth organizations and government authorities to contribute to the acceleration of NDC implementation and raising ambition. In the same year, the National Congress passed a new Act on Climate Change, and youth organizations were involved in developing the law, together with representatives from civil society organizations and the Academia. In 2020, as part of the activities for "environmental education week", a workshop targeting youth groups with 167 youth activists was held to analyze the Climate Change Act. Recommendations from these dialogues and additional planned activities under UNDP's Climate Promise will contribute to shaping the revision of the country's NDC. Close collaboration is ongoing with the NDC Partnership and support on the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to engage youth and build their capacities in order to ensure youth-sensitive measures are included in the NDC and Long-Term Strategies.



## HIGHLIGHTS: MISSION 1.5

The [Mission 1.5](#) campaign has attracted over 4 million players to date. The results will be analyzed in partnership with Oxford University and presented in December.

A learning website is in the final development stage. It will target secondary-school students and above, teachers and parents that are teaching kids remotely or at home. The website and campaign are partnering with NGOs such as March for Science, and UN entities such as UNICEF, UNESCO, FAO, the UN's Special Envoy on Youth, UN Global Compact, UNITAR, UNEP and UNV.

Some countries are also introducing innovative ways to promote and use Mission 1.5 to further involve youth and the general public in the national climate discussions:



In **Bhutan**, UNDP is supporting the government in the process of enhancing its NDC and raising ambition. Mission 1.5 is being used as tool to help inform the process by tapping into a broader set of voices and mobilize actors across the country to jointly support the global fight against climate change.

In **Georgia**, a local Mission 1.5 campaign started with a UNDP-produced educational TV series “Break Time,” working in partnership with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and the Georgian Public

Broadcaster. The [Georgia Country Office creatively made Mission 1.5 the centre of an informal climate education programme for youth](#), supporting school education during the pandemic when all schools moved classes online during the Covid-19 lockdown ([Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#)).

In **Nigeria**, the Government developed the Climate Change Youth Action Manual as an educational toolkit targeting youth and young adults between the age of 5 and 25 to empower them to take climate action as part of delivering the country's NDC. The manual unlocks the potential for youth to contribute to carbon emission reduction while exploring untapped areas across key sectors towards ensuring low carbon development. Mission 1.5 is featured as part of the tools showcased in this manual.

In **Iraq**, the Accelerator Lab has launched Mission 1.5 in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Environment (MoHE) as a tool to connect with the private sector and civil society on climate issues during Covid-19. They also leveraged Mission 1.5 to conduct a [A Call For Innovation: Ideation Challenge on Climate Change](#) with 17 local organizations across the country to develop startup ideas, highlighting [the role of entrepreneurs in tackling climate change](#).



In **Turkey**, the Climate Promise campaign targeting youth has been built on Mission 1.5 leveraging the voice and outreach of national celebrities broadcasting [live on National TV](#) and [live-streamed on social media with a huge online audience](#).

In **Ecuador**, [Mission 1.5 was locally launched in March 2020](#) joined by the Minister of Environment and Water, Juan DeHowitt, using Mission 1.5 as a tool for policymakers to connect and hear from people directly. Ivan Vallejo, a famous high-altitude mountaineer and UNDP Goodwill Ambassador is also promoting Mission 1.5 by sharing his experience feeling the consequences of climate change in his expeditions. The Country Office is planning a large local campaign next year in partnership with UNICEF.



## Partnerships for Country Support on Youth Empowerment

UNDP's support on youth empowerment through the Climate Promise draws on extensive partnerships already cultivated as a means of strengthening youth engagement in sustainable development more broadly. This includes advocacy, capacity development and networking with youth delegates of Member States representatives and engaging with youth organizations, movements and networks (e.g. YOUNGO). Through the Climate Promise, specific partnerships both within the UN System and beyond, are helping to support countries to engage youth in the NDC process and promote ambitious climate action. Some highlights include:

**UNICEF:** UNDP has recently enhanced its collaboration with UNICEF, bilaterally and through the Generation Unlimited initiative to invest in young people's education, entrepreneurship and civic engagement. UNICEF is also a partner in the roll-out on Mission 1.5 (see above). UNICEF has jointly developed the online educational module for Mission 1.5 and participated in UNDP's online consultation on young people powering action this Summer. At global level, UNDP Administrator co-chairs the Generation Unlimited task force on young people as change makers which offers new opportunities for collaboration between UNICEF and UNDP. Many of the projects identified as part of the 40+ GenU Youth Challenges co-hosted by UNICEF, UNDP, together with the Scouts and Plan International focused on climate change and related issues, water and green jobs, helping us identify innovative youth-led approaches and solutions.


**UNEP:** UNEP and UNDP have recently joined forces in rolling out the #TimeforNature Campaign in the lead up and follow-up to the Biodiversity Summit, partnering with young people and youth organisations: <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/youth-band-together-demand-leaders-take-action-for-nature>

**UNV:** UNDP has partnered with the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and UN Volunteers to provide learning and networking opportunities to young journalists and young environmental and human rights defenders in four resource-rich countries as part of the [Young Environmental Journalist](#) campaign. 71 young talents from Colombia, Kenya, Mongolia and Mozambique participated in the 2019 pilot version of the campaign. The project has provided them with a platform to learn about environmental and human rights protection (with a focus on mining governance) and build strong networks with local, regional and global journalism associations, networks and outlets. The [2020 version of this campaign was launched on July 2](#) to recruit 70 participants from resource-rich nations in the Global South. While this is not an initiative directly under the Climate Promise, it contributes to supporting youth-led narratives and to enhancing political commitments to strengthening youth agency in climate.

**GEF:** GEF Small Grants Program (SGP)<sup>16</sup> is supporting civil society and communities in most of the countries participating in UNDP's Climate Promise. Over the past year SGP is implementing "Youth and Climate Innovation Program" launched at the Youth Climate Summit in 2019. The program aims to empower and

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<sup>16</sup> The program provides grants of up to \$150,000 directly to local communities including indigenous people, community-based organizations and other non-governmental groups in 125 countries. The country programs are aligned with and contributing to NDC implementation by investing in scalable local solutions, fostering policy development and contributing to society mobilization.



engage youth through raising awareness, developing capacity, supporting practical local climate action and fostering knowledge sharing and exchange


**NDC Partnership's Youth Engagement Plan:** UNDP has contributed to the development of the NDC Partnership's Youth Engagement Plan (launch is forthcoming) as one of 10 members of the Youth Task Force and the Steering Committee. UNDP's contribution drew upon its support to youth empowerment through the Climate Promise. The recommendations incorporated into the Engagement Plan are based on a consultation approximately 500 young people through survey and online workshops, as well as inputs from NDC Partnership members. The consultation highlighted opportunities to accelerate youth-led climate action, such as access to resources, youth-inclusive meetings and conferences, and support from decision-makers and partners. It also highlighted the importance of supporting existing and new youth-led organizations and networks in NDC implementation, strengthening the capacity of partners to meaningfully engage young people in NDC processes and climate policy, providing access to climate education, and taking into account the diversity of young people and leave no youth behind.

**Advocacy, capacity development and networking with youth delegates (Member States representatives):** UNDP maintains and cultivates partnerships with youth delegates who are part of Member States delegations in ECOSOC/UNGA-Second Committee, UNGA-Third Committee and Security Council delegations and negotiations. This work helps to ensure that strategic partners are aware of the objectives of the Climate Promise, supportive of UNDP's mandate on youth and climate, and vocal about UNDP's results under the Climate promise, in particular those related to youth engagement and empowerment. This includes briefing meetings with 25+ Member States youth delegates on youth-related issues (focusing on youth engagement, civic space, climate change and other thematic areas) as well as meeting with youth delegates from Denmark to identify new entry points for collaboration on climate change. Several side events are likely to take place together with missions and youth delegates around the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Paris Agreements, in addition to the main formal commemoration event which UNDP is supporting.

**Youth organizations, movements and networks; e.g. YOUNGO:** UNDP has been closely working with networks of grassroots movements, including YOUNGO and the Major Group for Children and Youth to build youth buy-in and social capital, leverage youth networks and strengthen youth capacities. This ongoing collaboration ranges from convening joint side events, to crafting advocacy messages, to social media campaigns and networking enhancement at country level. (This engagement helps advocate for UNDP's results and comparative advantage in the climate space and spotlight promising practices from our work on Youth & NDCs.

**Italy** is committed to supporting Youth4ClimateLive monthly dialogues until Pre-COP26 and COP26, with the participation of UNDP Administrator on Green recovery and the participation of a UNDP Generation17's young leader from Argentina on Climate Ambition. UNDP's Youth Global Programme is also supported by Italy, including through an additional staff from Fall 2020, specifically to work on Youth & Climate and contribute to youth partnerships and youth engagement in communications campaigns as part of the Climate Promise.

**Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth and Youth Advisory Group (YAG) on Climate Change:** The YAG on Climate Change approved its workplan and will meet with UNDP to identify entry points for collaboration. One joint activity already being discussed is to co-convene regional consultations in 2021 with UNICEF, to engage young activists and better connect their global roles with country level implementation in the



context of the Climate Promise. The aim is to extract compelling stories and key challenges to be presented to the SG and DSG. The Chair of the YAG (Nisreen, Sudan) participated on 29 October in the UNDP dialogue on environmental governance and focused on the role of youth in decision-making, a means of enhancing the role of youth in NDCs.

**A new inter-agency working group supporting the implementation of the Secretary-General's Call to Action on Human Rights**, in particular the workstream of the Rights of Future Generation, has just been formed. UNDP is joining forces with OHCHR, UNEP and others to strengthen country-level work with National Human Rights institutions and also develop guidelines on children and youth participation, all essential to enhance climate justice, strengthen the role of youth in climate ambition, and better hold governments and partners accountable.

**Private sector:** A number of private sector partnerships on youth is paving the way for meaningful action in the context of the Climate Promise. [Generation17](#) is a joint youth initiative by **Samsung** and UNDP to amplify the voices of young leaders from Argentina, Mali, Zimbabwe and Bangladesh. Maximo Mazzocco, Argentinian representative from **Ecohouse** who supports youth and climate ambition/action's work in UNDP Argentina, participants in this cohort. Other private sector partnerships at regional and country level are also underway (e.g. **Citi Foundation** in the context of **Youth co:Lab**).



### III. Looking Forward: Climate Justice

It is not possible to reach ambitious climate goals and targets without addressing systemic root causes and issues of injustice, as well as pursuing inclusive sustainable development and a just transition. NDCs provide a pathway for more inclusive sustainable development that can guide policymakers and mitigate the disproportionate consequences of climate change. The revision process itself provides a platform for bringing stakeholders together across both government and society, at all levels, to ensure all voices are heard and directly inform concrete action and accountability processes. UNDP's Climate Promise aims to address climate justice through a rights-based approach, which also focuses on procedural justice, intergenerational equity and gender equality.

**Climate change threatens human rights**, especially for the most vulnerable and marginalized. Maintaining a healthy and functional environment is integral to the human rights to life, food, health, and a decent standard of living, among others. It is also essential to protect the rights of environmental human rights defenders<sup>17</sup> and climate activists, who are highly vulnerable to attacks.

Climate action is only sustainable if it is taken through a **rights-based approach**. Human rights must be fundamental principles that guide the design and implementation of NDCs. According to the Center for International Environmental Law, 24 countries mention human rights in their first NDCs, 19 of which are part of the Climate Promise. Countries can use the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other frameworks, both international and national, as guidelines to integrate human rights into their NDCs and national climate policies.

A rights-based approach is contingent on fair and inclusive decision-making processes. **Procedural justice** ensures that a system is set up in a just, inclusive and equitable manner. It is essential to address specific barriers to participation and allow for meaningful participation from all relevant stakeholders, particularly those most impacted by the negative effects of climate change, regardless of access or ability. Through the Climate Promise, 75 countries have dedicated activities to promote whole-of-society engagement as part of the NDC enhancement process. This will be further analyzed to better understand the level of engagement and the diversity of inclusion.

As explored in-depth throughout this report, the Climate Promise is dedicated to both **intergenerational equity and gender equality**. Long-term decision-making, foresight and future-oriented policies ensure that future generations and all genders are considered in climate policy, and specifically within the NDC. From a procedural perspective, this includes specific quotas, as well as diversified committees and decision-making bodies. It is also imperative to build in intergenerational knowledge-exchange to confirm knowledge is transferred between groups in an equitable manner.

Moving forward, UNDP will continue to work with countries with the Climate Promise to help promote an NDC revision and enhancement process that considers these climate justice principles, builds the foundation for just and inclusive NDC implementation and future enhancement, and responds to the Secretary-General's Call to Action on Human Rights.

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<sup>17</sup> According to the UN, environmental human rights defenders include "individuals and groups who, in their personal or professional capacity and in a peaceful manner, strive to protect and promote human rights relating to the environment, including water, air, land, flora and fauna." (Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of environmental human rights defenders, UN A71/281)