

UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Climate Promise Progress Report

July 2021



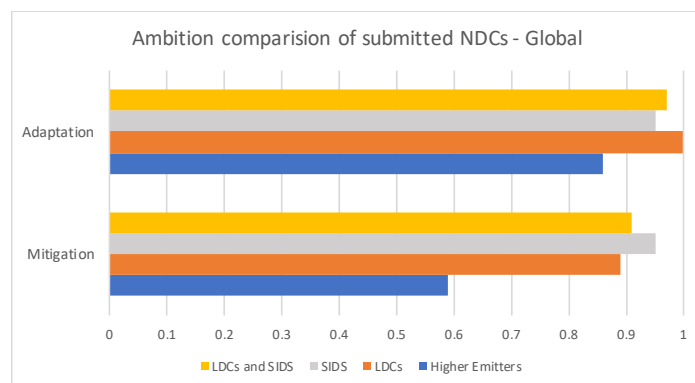
Global NDC Landscape AT A GLANCE

As of 31 July 2021, 113 countries representing 53.7% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have submitted new or updated NDCs.

Of these, 56 were Climate Promise countries, representing 83% of all developing countries submissions to date and 17.5% of global GHG emissions.

Overall, Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) continue to lead the way on ambition while higher emitters¹ are falling short.

- 91% of LDCs and SIDS raised mitigation ambition and 97% raised adaptation ambition.
- 59% of higher emitters raised mitigation ambition and 86% raised adaptation ambition.



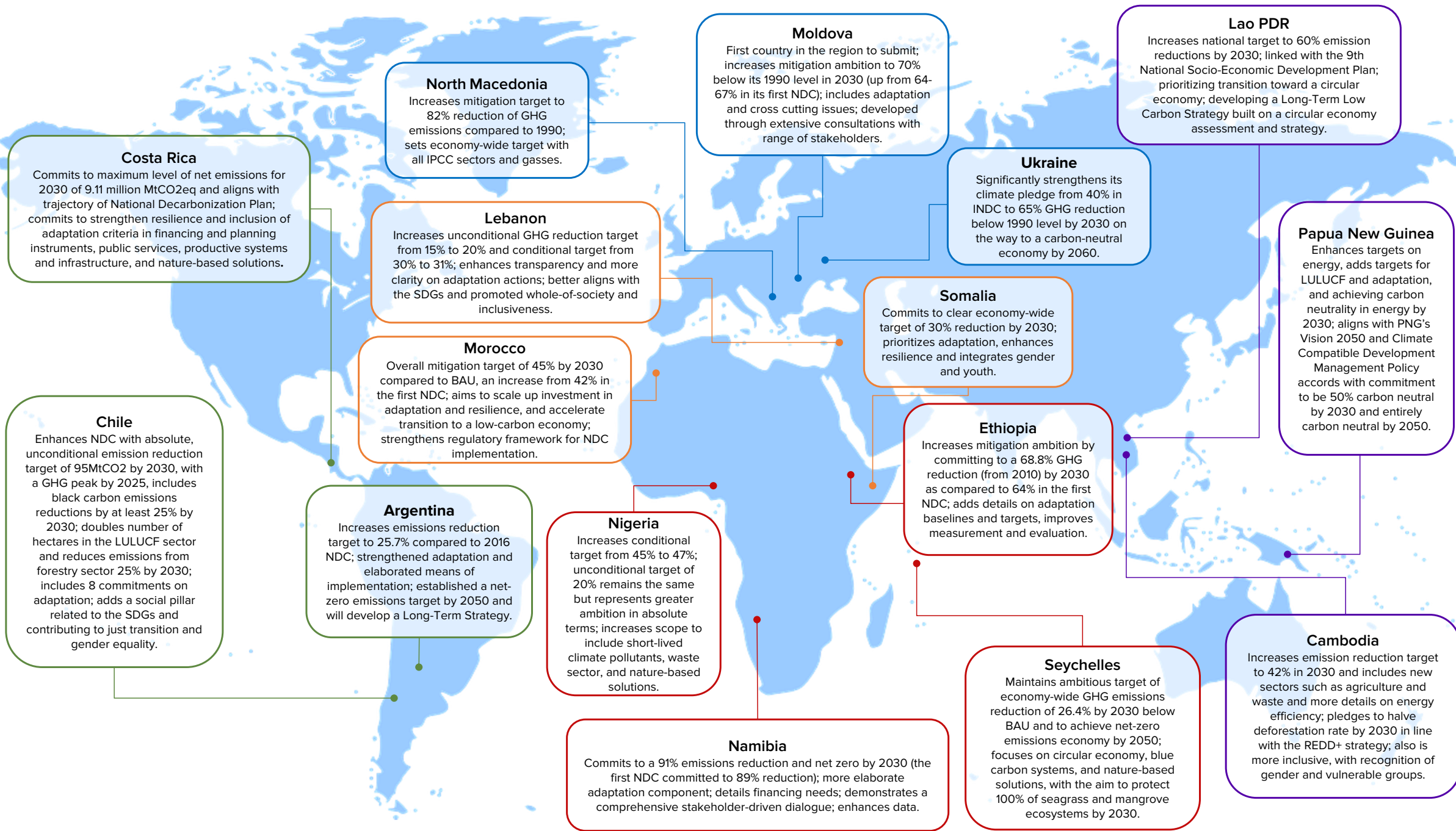
The submitted NDCs demonstrate that the Paris Agreement’s “ratchet mechanism” is working -- but many key countries are still not committing to GHG emissions cuts to match the science. Eight G20 members raised ambition and seven did not, while three do not plan to submit NDCs. China and South Africa did not meet the UNFCCC Synthesis Report deadline of end of July.

UNDP’s Climate Promise engagement with 119 represents 80% of all developing countries and 60% of all UNFCCC parties. Thus far, ambition for countries supported by the Climate Promise is higher compared to non-Climate Promise countries, especially on adaptation given the high priority for LDCs, SIDS and Africa.

¹ Countries with share of global GHG emissions more than 0.5%.

Behind the numbers: Ambition is not only possible – it's already happening

Champion Climate Promise countries are stepping up around the world to demonstrate ambition





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UNDP’s Climate Promise currently supports 80% of all developing countries to enhance their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), in collaboration with over 35 partners. This amounts to a total of 119 countries, with Angola as the country that has joined most recently. In total, the portfolio represents about 28.7% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

As of 31 July 2021, 56 Climate Promise countries have submitted their new or updated NDCs to the UNFCCC, representing 83% of all developing countries that have submitted their NDCs to date and 17.5% of global total GHG emissions. Eighty-eight percent (88%) have increased mitigation ambition, 95% increased adaptation ambition, and 96% have included gender considerations included. UNDP’s Climate Promise continues to support countries to develop higher quality NDCs, increase ambition, and link to green recovery. [*Section I provides a more detailed analysis of NDCs submitted to date.*](#)

With a slower than expected pace to NDC submissions this year, more NDCs are likely to be submitted in the run up to COP26. Countries continue to weather the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, alongside lengthy internal endorsement processes and, in some cases, political changes (e.g. elections, civil unrest). Despite these delays, overall ambition intentions remain consistent. [*Section I provides a further analysis of submission timelines.*](#)

A number of Climate Promise countries around the world are stepping up and demonstrating leadership on ambition, particularly the smaller and more vulnerable. Ambition champions emerging from the Climate Promise mirror global trends with LDCs and SIDS leading the way, while higher-emitters are falling short. Among the NDCs that have been submitted, 92% of LDCs and SIDS raised mitigation ambition and 96% raised adaptation ambition. Globally, 59% of higher emitters have raised mitigation ambition and 86% raised adaptation ambition. [*Section II outlines progress and trends by region, as well as showcasing champion countries that have already submitted strong NDCs.*](#)

On adaptation and resilience, NDCs and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) can be mutually reinforcing, and countries are increasingly working to strengthen the linkages between the two. While only a small percentage of countries have submitted NAPs to date, there are opportunities to leverage ongoing NAP processes to strengthen the adaptation component of NDCs and detail out the strategies and measures to turn adaptation targets into action. [*Section III provides an analysis of adaptation-related trends and examples of NAP-related support under UNDP's portfolio that is contributing to stronger NDCs.*](#)

Almost all submitted NDCs include detailed energy targets, which address not only energy transition but also energy access and energy resilience. The High-Level Dialogue on Energy (HLDE) in September 2021, and its preparations including the recent Ministerial Dialogue, provide an opportunity to advance practical energy solutions to raise climate ambition and accelerate action in order to deliver the Paris Agreement goals. [*Section IV provides an analysis of the energy components of countries' submitted NDCs and a review of the impact and opportunities presented by the HLDE.*](#)

Through UNDP's corporate Moonshot, UNDP is committed to walking the talk - not just supporting countries to enhance their ambition but also taking concrete steps to reduce GHGs from its own operations. UNDP has committed to reduce GHG emissions from UNDP operations 25% by 2025 and 50% by 2030. [*Section V outlines these commitments, progress to date on turning these commitments into action and examples of where we are transitioning to low-carbon operations around the world.*](#)



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I. Latest Trends on Submissions and Ambition Intentions

UNDP's Climate Promise is now supporting 119² countries, or 80% of all developing countries globally on NDC enhancement. This includes 39 LDCs, 28 SIDS, 14 higher-emitters³, and 46 countries in fragile settings⁴. In total, the portfolio represents about 28.7% of global emissions⁵. Support to countries is being done in coordination with over 35 partners, including the NDC Partnership, all working closely to provide targeted support to developing countries' NDC processes and leverage them to advance sustainable development priorities, from gender equality to green job creation to COVID-19 recovery.

Submitted Enhanced NDCs

The vast majority of developing countries that have submitted new/updated NDCs have been supported by the Climate Promise, including to increase quality, raise ambition, and link to green recovery.

- As of 31 July 2021, 56 Climate Promise countries have communicated their revised NDCs to the UNFCCC, representing 83% of all the developing countries that have submitted their revised NDCs.
- Of the countries that have submitted thus far, 88% have raised mitigation ambition, 95% have raised adaptation ambition, and 96% have included gender considerations.

Two countries (Bangladesh and Sudan) submitted an interim or provisional NDC, with an indication for a full submission during the second half of 2021. The Philippines, Ecuador, and Uruguay submitted their first NDCs (in 2020, 2019 and 2017 respectively), which are considered by the UNFCCC as their updated NDCs. *For a full list of all 56 countries, their submission dates and assessment of mitigation and adaptation ambition, please see the Annex.*

UNDP has been a key partner supporting countries during the revision process and remains engaged with countries as they move from pledge to action, supporting countries to pave the way towards long-term, net-zero and climate resilient sustainable development pathways.

2 This excludes Kosovo, which is also receiving support under the Climate Promise despite being a non-UNFCCC party.

3 Countries with % share of global GHG emissions more than 0.5%.

4 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.

5 CAIT 2016

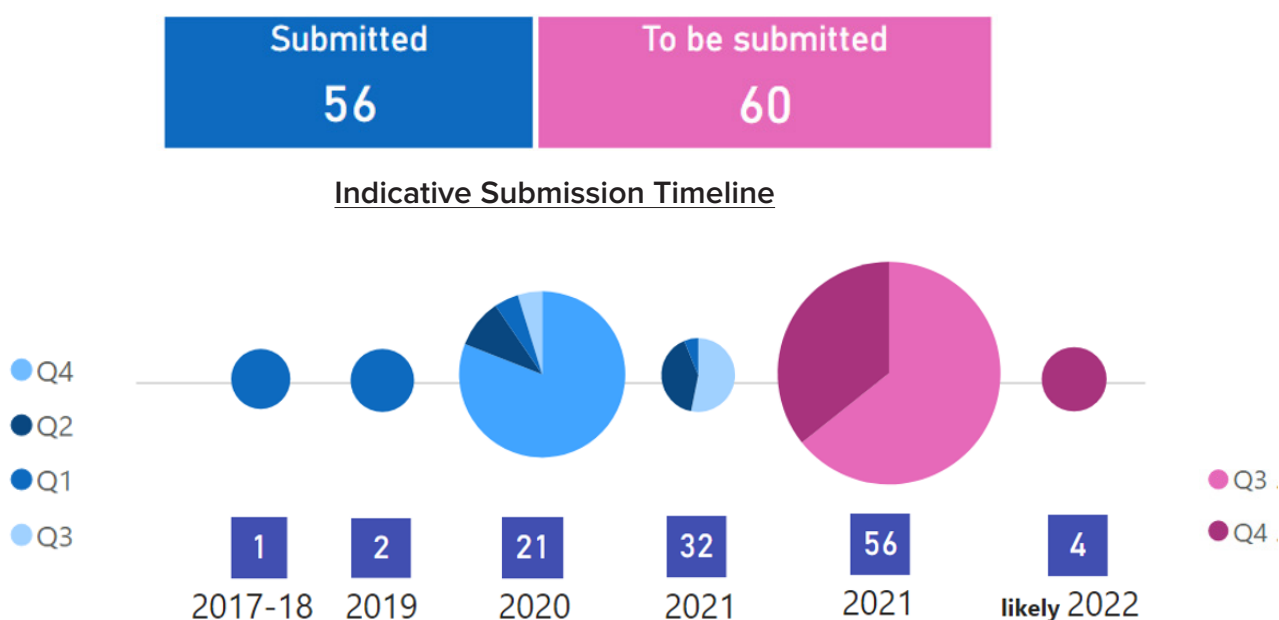
Submission Dates and Timelines

Overall, progress has been slow on NDC submissions for 2021 as countries continue to weather the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, alongside lengthy internal endorsement processes, and in some cases political bottlenecks.

During the first half of 2021, only 40 countries communicated revised NDCs to the UNFCCC, of which 32 were Climate Promise countries. These include two countries--Ethiopia and Zambia--who submitted interim updated NDCs in 2020 and later submitted full updated NDCs in July 2021. This is significantly lower than the nearly 80 country submissions initially expected at the beginning of the year. Furthermore, a few countries have also indicated they are likely to push the submission into 2022 due to continued pandemic impacts or political circumstances (e.g. elections).

It is expected that around 65 Parties are likely to submit their revised NDC by the end of 2021, about 55 of which are Climate Promise countries. Many countries are already in the advanced stage of the revision processes with over 20 countries already having drafted revised NDC documents, circulating for stakeholders' inputs, and/or pending final validation or endorsement processes.

Figure 1. Climate Promise Countries' submission timelines



Ambition Intentions

Ambition intentions for both mitigation and adaptation remain fairly consistent, with raised ambition expected in a large majority of Climate Promise countries. For the 56 NDCs already submitted, 88% raised mitigation ambition and 95% raised adaptation ambition. Expected ambition of the remaining countries continues to be encouraging, with 73% intending to raise mitigation ambition, and 95% intending to raise adaptation ambition. Collectively, we expect that around 80% of all Climate Promise countries' revised NDCs will increase mitigation ambition, and over 90% on adaptation.

Figure 2. Ambition of all Climate Promise countries (as of 31 July 2021) including both submitted NDCs and intentions for planned submissions

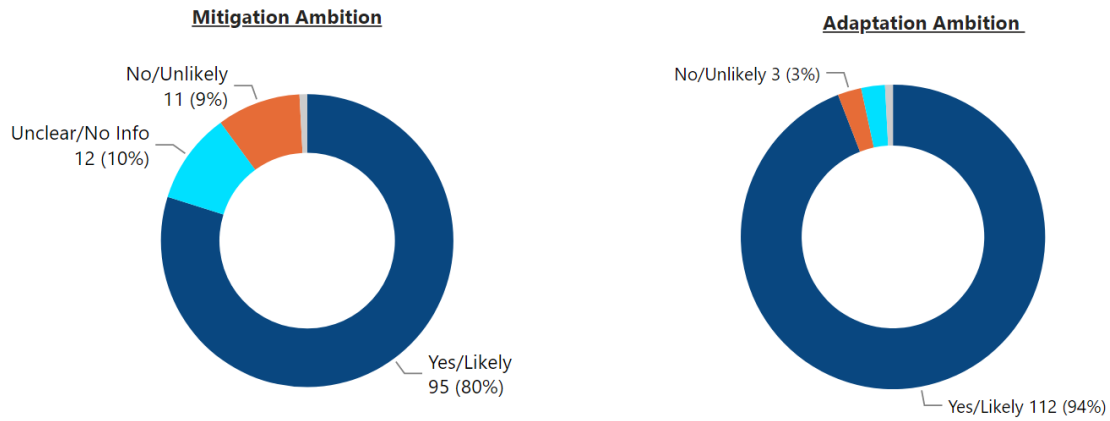


Figure 3. Trends on ambition of Climate Promise countries over time (as of 31 July 2021), including both submitted NDCs and planned submissions

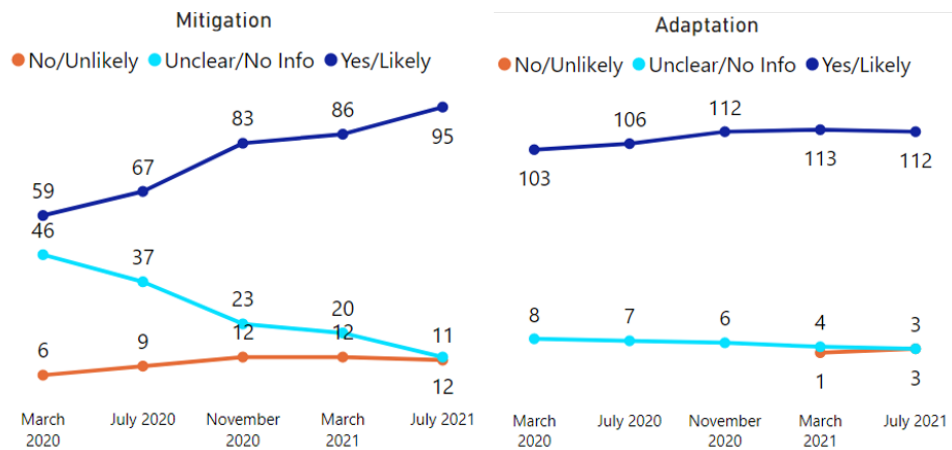
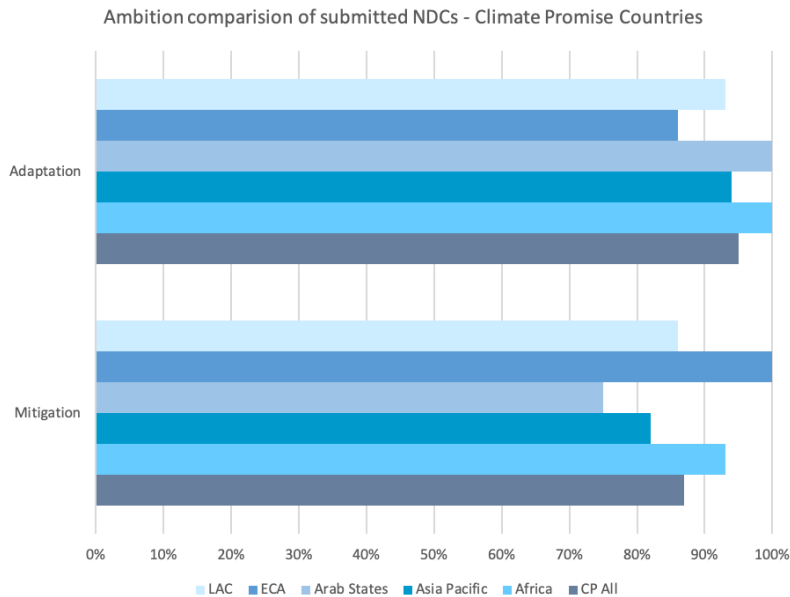
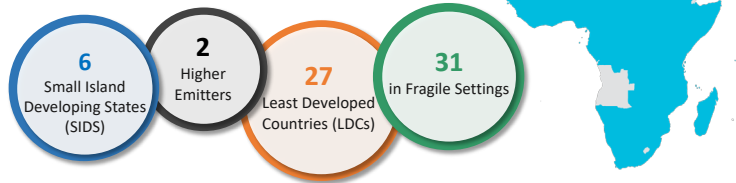


Figure 4. Overview of Regional Ambition vs Global



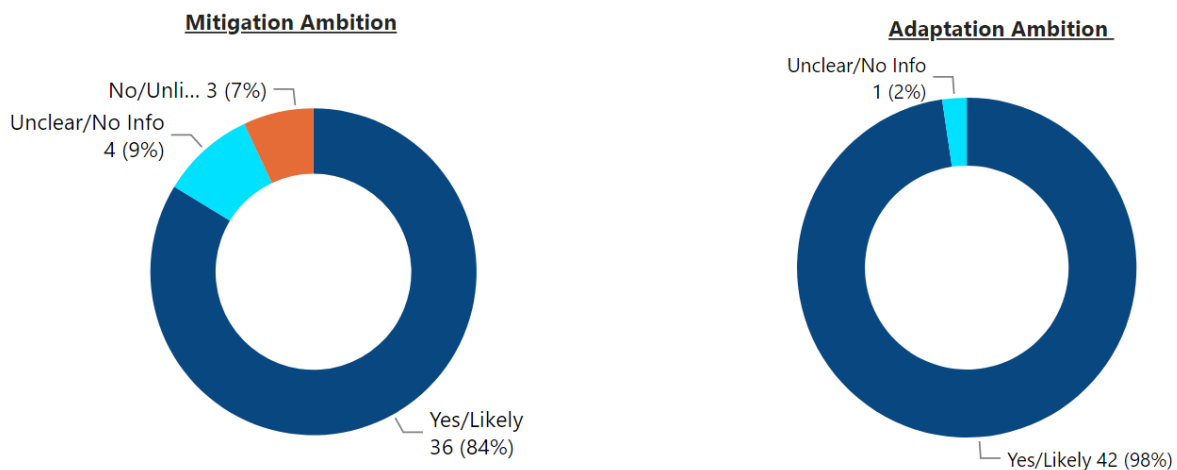
II. Progress by Region

Africa: 43 countries



Africa is the largest region supported by the Climate Promise with a total of 43 countries, covering nearly 8% of the global total GHG emissions (CAIT 2016). Angola recently joined the Climate Promise as the 43rd country with its recently submitted enhanced NDC.

Submission Status and Ambition Intentions



To date, a total of 14 African countries have communicated their updated NDCs to the UNFCCC. Two countries (Kenya and Rwanda) submitted in 2020 and 12 countries (Angola, Cabo Verde, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Tanzania and Zambia) submitted in 2021, with ten of them submitted in the month of July. Ethiopia and Zambia submitted its full revised NDC document after their interim submission in December 2020.

Most of the submitted NDC updates are more ambitious than first NDCs and include new sectors (waste, reforestation, water resources, health, etc.), gases (HFCs), and climate and air pollutants for both mitigation and adaptation measures and actions. Almost all of the submitted African NDCs highlight both an unconditional contribution (actions to be implemented with the support of domestic resources) and a conditional contribution (actions that will only be taken on the condition of international funding, including both multilateral public funds and international private finance). Another feature of African NDCs is their strong linkages to SDG targets and green recovery plans.

All countries have enhanced adaptation ambition and all but one country demonstrated clear increase in mitigation ambition. All submitted countries included references to gender. For the remaining 29 countries that are due to submit by the end of 2021, nearly 80% aim to increase mitigation ambition and over 95% for adaptation ambition. Overall, African countries have shown immense leadership with ambitious NDCs given their vulnerability and low emission profile of the region.

Emerging Trends – Linking NDCs to Green Recovery

As countries continue to update their NDCs in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNDP provides support to identify and realize the strategic co-benefits of implementing NDC adaptation and mitigation measures that contribute to green and resilient recovery efforts. Efforts are being undertaken in over 25 African countries. For example, 12 countries⁶ are developing recovery projects that align with NDC revision processes. **Benin** is undertaking green recovery actions through the promotion of an incubator for renewable energy production using biomass gasification to support green circular economy in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, contributing to the country's renewable energy target in the NDC. Benin is also linking green recovery actions to its National Adaptation Planning (NAP) development processes as part of a pilot initiative focused on scaling up support for linking NDCs and green recovery. As a response to COVID-19, **Ethiopia** intends to build resilience of local communities to the food security impacts of the pandemic. Some of these economic recovery interventions will be incorporated in the updated NDC and inform the local adaptation options identified. Nine countries⁷ are investing in green jobs creation. This includes investment in ecosystem restoration, green value chain development, climate smart agriculture, and green enterprise and skills development. Four⁸ are assessing COVID-19 impact on NDC revision and implementation with the aim of identifying priority measures for green recovery. Mali, Nigeria, and South Africa are strengthening government capacities/coordination with key ministries, including planning/finance.

Country Spotlight – Cabo Verde

Cabo Verde submitted a more ambitious and comprehensive updated NDC to the UNFCCC in April 2021. The updated NDC has an economy-wide GHG reduction target, includes new sectors, and highlights adaptation measures. Compared to its first NDC prepared in 2015, the updated NDC strengthens and moves beyond the initial set of actions and commitments concerning scope, sector ambition, balancing of mitigation and adaptation actions, while providing more clarity on governance and transparency, as well as considerations on climate justice and gender equality.

6 These countries include: Benin, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Liberia, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, and Rwanda

7 Malawi, CAR, Comoros, Nigeria, Gabon, Madagascar, Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa, Zimbabwe

8 Ethiopia, Ghana, Togo, Zimbabwe

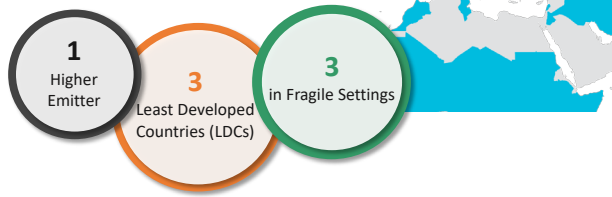
UNDP was a key partner in supporting Cabo Verde in their revision process. Through the Climate Promise, UNDP supported the development of baseline studies and assessments in key sectors (including nature-based solutions); evaluation of national policies, strategies and targets related to the key NDC-related sectors; assessment of costs and technological options, as well as socio-economic analysis and diagnosis on the implementation of NDC in key sectors. In addition, UNDP provided support to ensure an inclusive and whole-of-society approach in the revision process by conducting consultative workshops, training sessions and public awareness campaigns on issues related to NDC and climate change. To support the implementation of the updated NDC, UNDP is also supporting the country to develop a Gender Analysis Study in the sectors of energy, marine resources, water and sanitation, and disasters, as well as an Action Plan, NDC financial mobilization strategy to identify sources of financing for NDC actions, and investment plans.

Country Spotlight – Namibia

Namibia submitted the second NDC with a more ambitious mitigation and adaptation target. On mitigation, it has committed to a 91% GHG reduction (14% unconditional and 77% conditional) by 2030 from its BAU level mainly through the AFOLU sector which has a GHG reduction target of 78.7% (the first NDC was already ambitious and committed to 89% reduction with 10% unconditional). In addition, it expresses its willingness to reach net-zero beyond 2030, with international support. The updated NDC also features a more elaborated adaptation component, details financing needs, demonstrates a comprehensive stakeholder-driven dialogue mechanism and enhanced data. It is also encouraging efforts to achieve the government's vision for a 'green economy' that encourages balanced economic development while safeguarding the environment.

UNDP was a key partner supporting Namibia in its revision process, working closely with GiZ and others as part of the NDCP's CAEP support. UNDP specifically provided technical support for conducting assessments and studies to inform the drafting of the new NDC. These included: assessments to identify measures and policies in the IPPU and Waste sectors; review of new policies and strategies developed after 2015 particularly in the energy sector and the ocean and marine sector (Blue Economy Policy); and vulnerability assessment of the Namibia's economy to impacts of climate change and potential consequences on population and economy. UNDP also helped strengthen stakeholder engagement throughout the revision process, as well as engaging high-level government leaders and champions to ensure buy-in and leadership. To support Namibia in ensuring effective implementation of their NDC, UNDP together with partners continue to support Namibia in assessing costs of actions, developing an NDC financing strategy and investment plan, strengthening the MRV system and capacities to monitor, track and report on progress on climate action and support, particularly financial flows to support successful NDC implementation.

Arab States: 7 countries



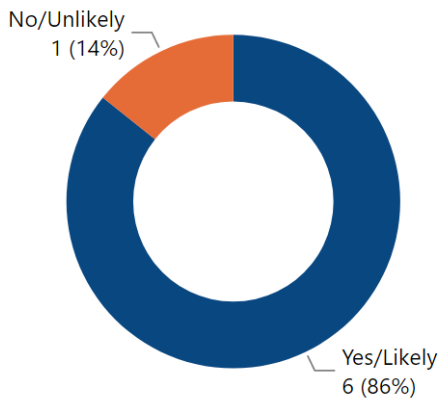
The Arab region is the part of the world with the most water insecurity and highest dependence on food imports, with temperatures rising faster than the world average owing to climate change. Average temperatures in the region could rise by 5°C above pre-industrial levels by 2100, catalysing a further reduction of food and water security and rising levels of poverty

and climate displacement in years to come. Meanwhile, the Arab region also hosts the world’s highest levels of solar radiation, with climate action standing as an opportunity to shift beyond the oil-based development model toward a new, clean, technology-driven, employment generating, knowledge economy. Under the Climate Promise, UNDP helps seven countries in the Arab region, covering 1.22% of the total global GHG emissions, to enhance and update their NDCs. This includes support for Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Sudan, Somalia, and Tunisia.

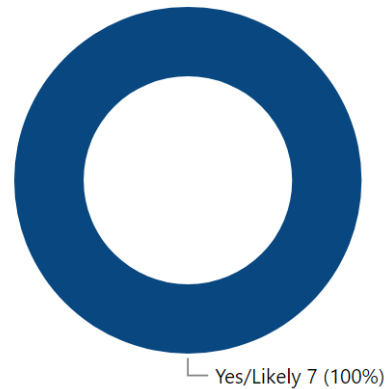
Submission Status and Ambition Intentions



Mitigation Ambition



Adaptation Ambition



To date, four Climate Promise countries in the region have submitted their updated NDC to the UNFCCC, including Lebanon, Morocco, Somalia, and Sudan (interim). Clear increases in mitigation and adaptation ambition were demonstrated by Lebanon, Morocco, and Somalia; and all three include references to gender. Sudan has submitted an interim NDC report pending Cabinet approval of the full submission. Three additional countries (Iraq, Jordan and Tunisia) are expected to submit in Q3 2021. Overall, the majority of these countries aim to increase ambition of mitigation and adaptation actions.

The region's updated and enhanced NDCs represent positive progress over countries' initial NDCs. Updates reflect the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and green recovery needs, and include new themes and sectors like disaster risk reduction, transport, industry, waste management and nature-based solutions. Some enhanced coverage of GHGs like nitrous oxides and methane are part of the mitigation actions. Others enhanced linkages to SDG achievement and development priorities such as poverty reduction and gender equality, as well as benefits of climate action for youth empowerment.

Emerging Trends – Climate Security

The Arab region has emerged in recent years as a global hotspot of climate change, conflict, and displacement. As a result, the climate emergency has risen on the regional agenda in recent years, increasingly seen not as an environmental priority alone, but also as a priority for sustaining peace and ensuring human security. Increasingly, the countries of the region most at risk from climate change are also those seeing a rise in conflict and displacement. Meanwhile in countries affected by war over the past decade, there is more limited capacity to develop and implement climate policy, including NDCs. On the other hand, low-carbon solar solutions are increasingly seen as a means of building back better toward a resilient recovery from conflict.

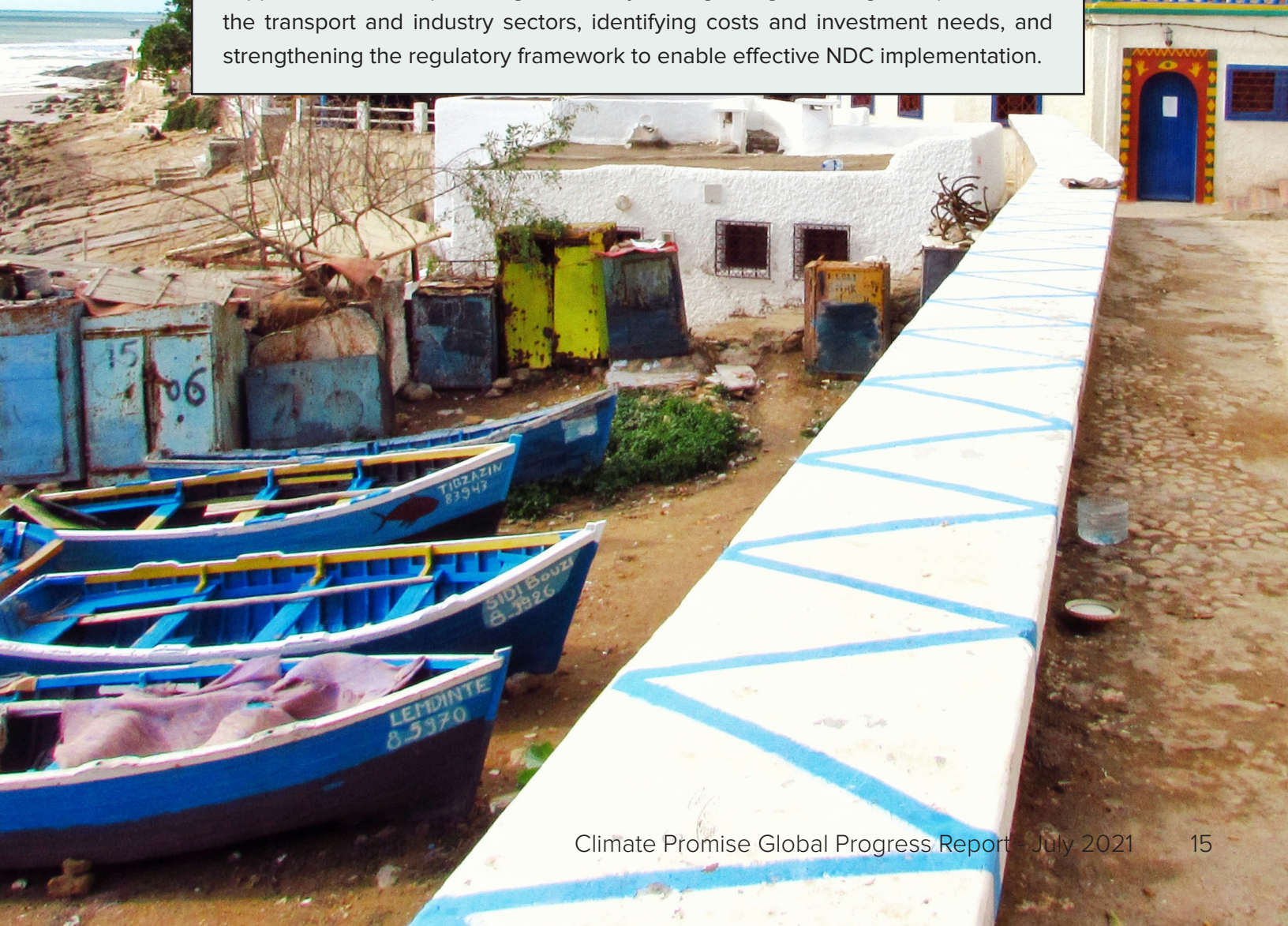
Recognizing the importance of the nexus between climate change and human security, a number of countries in the region have included climate risks for peace and security into their enhanced NDCs. Countries like Lebanon, Iraq, Somalia and Sudan all face the challenges of scaling up climate action in communities also facing broader forms of fragility and crisis. Climate action is also recognized as an important part of sustaining peace and peacebuilding strategies. In such countries, the enhanced NDCs serve as a platform to make the connection between climate action and the human security agenda, and as a basis for scaling up climate action as a contribution towards building community resilience and building back better.

In the Arab region, a top priority for UNDP is to expand climate change cooperation and implement NDCs in a way that addresses the climate security agenda. UNDP is actively helping to put in place policies to better manage multi-dimensional risk and expand the use of early warning systems, adapt food and water systems to enhanced resource security of communities, build resilience of communities to withstand the converging impacts of conflict and climate, and expand the role of solar solutions to help displaced communities build back better.

Country Spotlight: Morocco

Morocco submitted its updated NDC in June 2021. The submission included an overall mitigation target of 45.5% (conditional) and 18.3% (unconditional) by 2030 compared to BAU, demonstrated increased ambition compared to the target of 42% (conditional) and 17% (unconditional) reduction in the previous NDC. With the updated BAU scenario, the new targets would lead to a significantly lower level of absolute GHG emissions in 2030 compared to the initial NDC. Morocco also aims to have 52% of electrical power generated from renewables. The total cost of the mitigation actions included in the NDC is estimated at US\$ 38.8 billion. The updated NDC also included climate change adaptation measures with total cost estimated at US\$ 21.5 billion to scale up climate resilience across key sectors (i.e. water, agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, forestry, health, and ecosystems). The updated NDC aims to scale up investment for climate change adaptation and resilience, while accelerating the transition to a low-carbon economy.

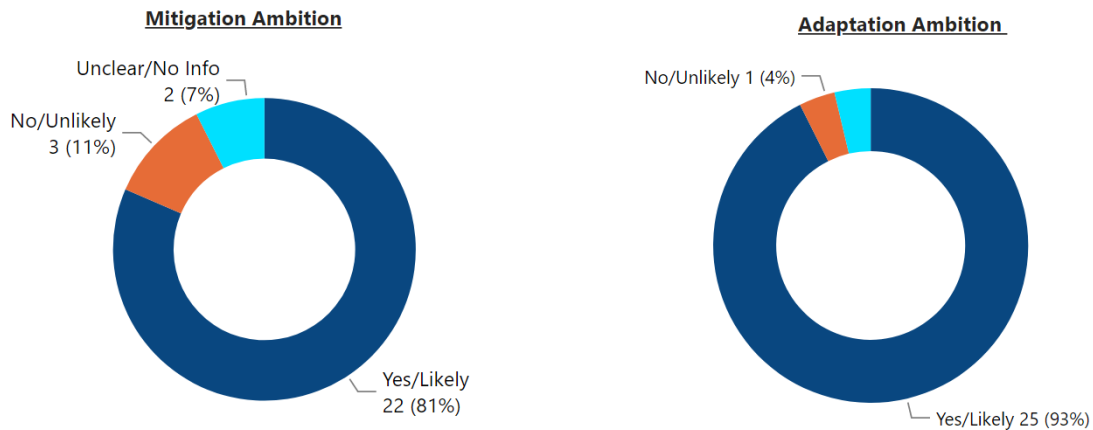
UNDP was a key player in supporting Morocco in its NDC revision process. UNDP's support focuses on providing new analyses regarding the mitigation potential of the transport and industry sectors, identifying costs and investment needs, and strengthening the regulatory framework to enable effective NDC implementation.



Asia and the Pacific: 27 countries



Asia and the Pacific region is the second largest region supported under the Climate Promise with a total of 27 countries (8 are Pacific Island Countries). This is also the Climate Promise region with the largest GHG emission coverage with a total of 11.39% of the global total (CAIT 2016).



Submission Status and Ambition Intentions

As of 31 July 2021, 27 countries in Asia and the Pacific region have submitted their new or updated NDCs and 17 of these countries have received direct support from UNDP's Climate Promise initiative. Most of the submitted NDCs supported under the Climate Promise have demonstrated increase in mitigation and adaptation ambition. In addition, a majority of these revised NDCs have improved in quality and robustness, including a deeper sectoral analysis, increased transparency, wider mitigation coverage. Sixteen of the 17 submitted NDCs take gender into consideration and a majority have expanded consultation processes and engagements on issues of gender, youth, and the private sector. At least four countries explicitly included women or women's organizations in consultations on the NDC. This ranges from engaging vulnerable groups in the NDC development process to the recognizing the value of indigenous knowledge and including specific adaptation measures that target vulnerable groups.

Due to the COVID-19 impacts and government transitions, some countries have been delayed in their formal review and validation process, thus impacting the timing of their submissions. Of the remaining 10 countries supported by the Climate Promise, it is expected that 8 will submit their NDCs by COP26 and two countries are uncertain in their submission, these include: Iran which has yet to ratify the Paris Agreement and complete their NDC and Timor Leste which has not fully committed to submitting their NDC by COP26 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is also noted that Bangladesh submitted an interim NDC in 2020 and is expected to communicate its full submission to UNFCCC by COP26.

Even with the economic impacts of COVID-19, developing countries across the Asia-Pacific region are demonstrating their commitment to the Paris Agreement. The mitigation intensions are aligned with the global average with over 80% increasing mitigation ambition and over 90% increasing adaptation ambition.

The exception is with higher emitters. Most of them have indicated mitigation targets that do not go beyond their previous NDC submission. Nonetheless, there is sometimes a nuanced picture. In their recent submission from Indonesia, for instance, mitigation targets remained unchanged, yet they added a clear, non-GHG target on land restoration, committed to peak emissions in 2030 and to reach carbon neutrality by 2060 (compared to previous commitments of 2070). The only exceptions are Malaysia and Pakistan. Malaysia has increased its unconditional GHG reduction target of 45% in its updated NDC as compared to its first NDC of 35% unconditional reduction target and 10% conditional target. It also increased the GHG coverage. Pakistan, whose updated NDC is expected in Q3 2021, has signaled its intention to increase mitigation ambition overall. This is particularly welcoming, as the Prime Minister recently announced at the 2020 UN Climate Ambition Summit that 60% of all energy produced in the country by 2030 will be clean and through renewable resources, 30% of all the country's passenger and heavy-duty vehicles will be electric vehicles and that Pakistan will no longer pursue imported coal power plants.

Emerging Trends – Linking NDC targets with Net-Zero Commitments

There is growing global momentum and demand for countries to commit to a net-zero future and many countries in the Asia and Pacific region, especially LDCs and SIDS, are responding to this call. A few countries have already embarked on a process to develop roadmap/strategies, as well as underlying policies to support the realization of their ambitious net-zero goals. For example, **Bhutan** remains committed to maintain its carbon neutrality in its second NDC and is in the process of developing a Long-term Strategy aligned to its national objective and global net-zero goal by 2050. **Cambodia** and **Nepal** have both committed to achieve net-zero as part of their updated NDCs and are in the process of developing Long-Term Strategies, supported by UNDP and key partners.

However, for many countries, there are still relatively limited policies and plans to underpin ambitious long-term mitigation ambitions. For example, **Papua New Guinea**'s second NDC declares their commitments to be 50% carbon neutral by 2030 and be entirely carbon neutral by 2050. The enhanced NDC includes an NDC implementation plan covering the period of 2021-2030 and was a "living document". Additionally, **Maldives**' NDC included conditional targets of 26% reduction of emissions in 2030 (compared to BAU) with the aim of reaching net-zero by 2030 with extensive support and assistance from the international community.

Further work remains to be done for many countries in the region to align NDCs with long-term plans towards net zero pathways. This requires that countries revisit their tangible near term and medium-term targets in NDCs, NAPs and relevant national and sector policies and plans, and put in place strategies for implementation to promote alignment with the net-zero emission pathways.

Country Snapshot: Bhutan

On June 5, 2021, as the world celebrated Environment Day, Bhutan marked an important milestone with the launch and unveiling of the second NDC by Her Majesty the Queen of Bhutan. This was formally submitted to the UNFCCC on 23rd June and reaffirms Bhutan's commitment to remain carbon neutral, while presenting enhanced information and actions towards fulfilling this commitment. This new NDC improved on transparency that demonstrates Bhutan's status as a net carbon sequestering country and puts forward targets and actions to mainstream mitigation actions and development into key sectors.

The submission highlights Bhutan's national circumstances and presents an overview of the numerous actions undertaken since 2015 to integrate, mainstream and implement climate actions. The mitigation actions for the period until 2030 include a National REDD+ Strategy to manage the forest carbon stock, and the development of Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS) in security, human settlements, industries and transport sectors, which UNDP is supporting. Other key policies, plans and strategies cover sectors such as waste, hydropower, and renewable energy.

Country Snapshot: Lao PDR

Lao PDR submitted its updated NDC to the UNFCCC in April 2021. The climate pledge broadened its mitigation scope and ambition, putting forward an unconditional national target to 60% emissions reduction by 2030 compared to baseline scenario, or around 62,000 ktCO₂e in absolute terms. Conditional mitigation targets have been defined for increasing forest coverage, increasing renewable energy production, increasing electric vehicle penetration, bio-fuel substitution in transportation, increasing energy efficiency, water management of rice cultivation, and waste management, with specified financing needs of approximately 4.7b USD. With UNDP's support, Lao PDR is adopting nature-based solutions and circular economy principles into the agriculture sector to enhance climate resilience as specified in the updated NDC. Climate adaptation ambitions and measures have been elaborated on key sectors, including for agriculture, forestry, and land use change (AFOLU), water resources, transport and urban development, public health, and energy.

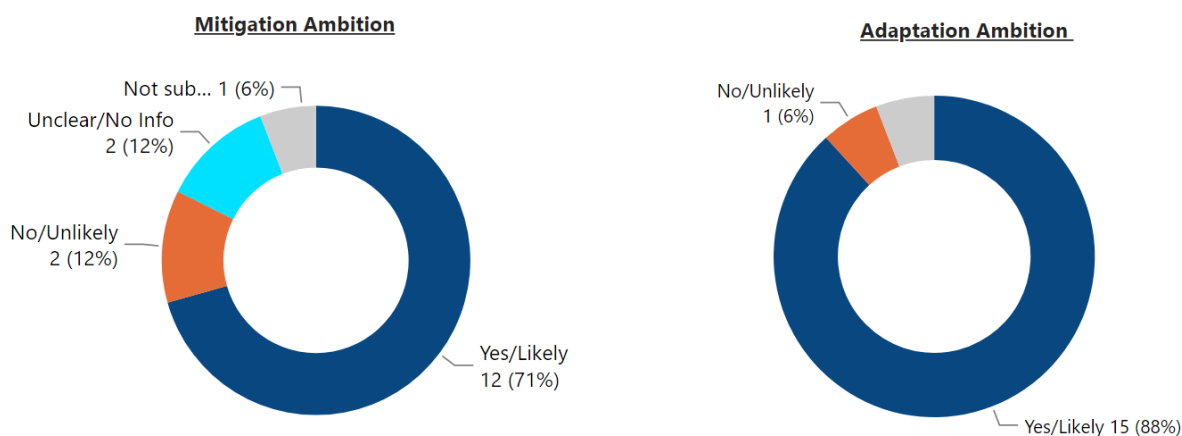
In the upcoming 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan, Lao PDR is prioritizing the transition towards a circular economy and in the process of exploring mitigation potential of a circular economy through material and product recirculation, circular policies and business models, product resource efficiency, and prioritizing the use of regenerative material resources. Under UNDP's NDC Support Programme, as part of the Climate Promise, UNDP is supporting the government to develop a Long-Term, Low Carbon Strategy built on a circular economy assessment and strategy. Consultations with public sector are ongoing to identify circular policies and a Community of Practice on Circular Economy with private sector participation is currently rolled-out to identify circular business models to advance the implementation of the opportunities identified in the strategy.

Europe and Central Asia: 17 countries



UNDP's Climate Promise in Europe and Central Asia supports 17 countries, covering 3.41% of the total global GHG emissions. UNDP also supports Kosovo⁹ in climate policy planning and implementation.

Submission Status and Ambition Intentions



To date, seven countries (Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Ukraine) have communicated their updated NDCs to the UNFCCC. All of them have increased their mitigation ambition. With regards to adaptation ambition, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine enhanced the adaptation component of their updated NDCs. **Montenegro** has highlighted the shift of focus from mitigation to including adaptation as well. Its progress on adaptation is reflected through referencing to the adoption of the law on protection against climate change which mandates the preparation of the National Adaptation Plan. UNDP, with finance from the Green Climate Fund, is supporting the government in pursuing this effort and strengthening institutional capacity for adaptation planning and coordination. In the next NDC cycle Montenegro plans to include adaptation actions with more details on their implementation and financing. While **North Macedonia** did not elaborate its adaptation efforts, it cited that it intended to enhance this component in the next revision cycle since its adaptation planning is at an initial stage.

9 as per United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244

Overall, most countries have submitted a more robust and better quality NDCs by reflecting analyses related to the COVID-19 impacts, aligning with the SDGs, including clear NDC roadmaps/ action plans, specifying financing strategies, as well as considerations of gender and vulnerable groups. In fact, five of the six submitted NDCs include a gender component.

The EU-funded [EU4Climate project](#) continues supports six Eastern Partnership countries in the region on NDC development. Specifically, recent NDC submissions by Armenia and Moldova have been the result of the EU4Climate support. In April 2021, EU4Climate conducted an online regional workshop “Implementing the NDCs”, which was attended by 110 participants, including government ministerial representatives, the European Commission, and international experts. The event presented best practices in NDC implementation, including the gender aspects, NDC financing plans, accounting, reporting, and transparency frameworks.

Ten countries have yet to submit their revised NDCs. Many submissions are expected by the end of Q3. Several countries plan to submit by November 2021, while a few may delay into 2022 due to electoral changes and other internal political processes slowed down by COVID-19. Turkey has not yet announced whether and when the country will ratify the Paris Agreement and submit their NDC. However, the country has been advancing its national climate policy and planning work both in mitigation and adaptation.

Emerging Trends – Just Transition

Just transition to “green” and low carbon development is receiving more attention across Europe and Central Asia. In May, ILO and UNDP organized a joint webinar “Just transition towards low-carbon and climate resilient economies” that presented entry points for Just Transition in the region. It also highlighted the opportunities these approaches offer in the context of COVID-19 recovery, countries’ green economy strategies and NDC commitments. The pioneering experience of **Serbia** covered an initial analysis of Just Transition aspects in the coal intensive regions and communities to initiate the national discussion on the following steps towards a just transition roadmap. **Uzbekistan**, as part of the Climate Promise support, carried out the first pilot assessment of socio-economic impacts of selected NDC measures, to be further broadened into a more comprehensive green jobs and just transition analysis. In **Turkey**, UNDP and ILO entered a partnership to carry out a study on the “Employment effects of climate change and green economy policies in Turkey”. The analysis will demonstrate impacts of climate and “green” policies on Turkey’s economy, identify possible synergies, tradeoffs, policy alignment opportunities and investment priorities.



Country Spotlight: North Macedonia

North Macedonia submitted its updated NDC in April 2021. In the official document North Macedonia acknowledged support from UNDP's Climate Promise in the NDC revision process and set its new ambitious climate pledge of 82% reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990. The NDC revision process involved the analysis of 63 policies and measures to mitigate climate change, as well as to manage the COVID-19 challenge through a "build forward better" approach. Greening the economy may create almost 8,000 new jobs by 2030, while a shift to circular economy can additionally deliver annual reductions of 951 Gg CO₂-eq, create 2,740 new jobs and generate almost 50 million euros in the Macedonian economy by 2030.

Strong social ownership of the revised NDC was enabled through recommendation of gender-responsive policies and an analysis of the impact of NDC measures on vulnerable groups of the population. Youth voices were also strongly considered during the national consultation process. It has been identified that 85 percent of the total investments needed for the implementation of NDC-related policies and measures in the industrial sector will be supported by the private sector. A quantified analysis of the synergies and trade-offs between SDGs and enhanced NDC targets was undertaken, which demonstrated the advantages of alignment and supporting the strong benefits of achieving the country's ambitious climate pledge.

Country Spotlight: Armenia

Armenia's updated NDC was submitted in May 2021, marking its renewed commitment for the period of 2021-2030 and contributing to building momentum towards COP26 and the global climate agenda under the Paris Agreement.

The revised NDC reflects the ambition of the Government of Armenia to reduce GHG emissions by 40% compared with the emissions of the base 1990 year by 2030. Setting the priority areas for low-carbon development and adaptation actions, the updated NDC is based on the principle of the green economy compatible with the Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030. One of the key components of the document is the enhanced transparency and accountability framework for tracking the progress on implementation of the country's commitments under the Paris Agreement.

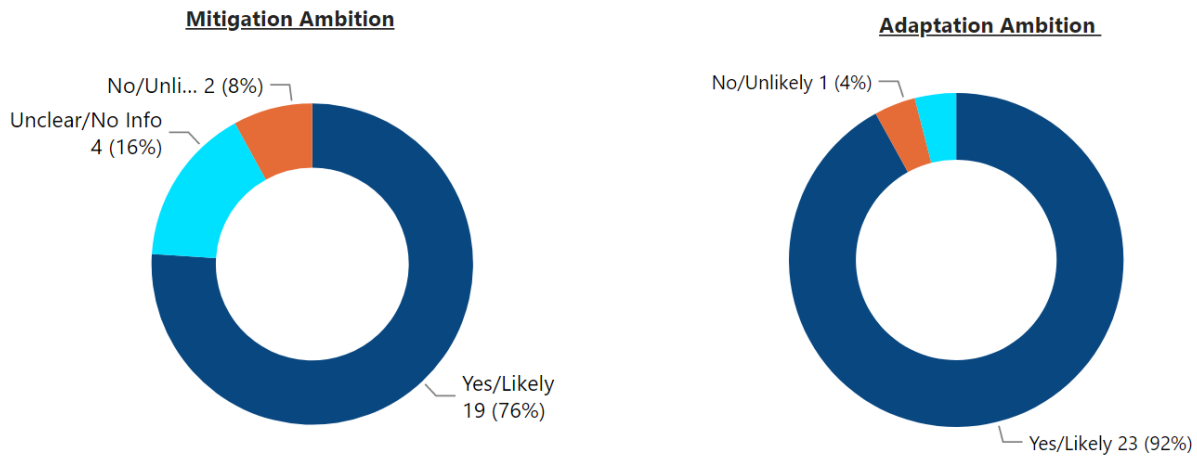
UNDP's Climate Promise supported the development of the NDC in Armenia through the EU-funded [EU4Climate project](#). It aligned the latest data from the National Communication, Biennial Update Report, and the National Inventory, and best international practices and lessons learned. Specifically, UNDP's support to the revision process has focused on ensuring a whole-of-society approach with particular emphasis on engaging private sector. UNDP has also supported the development of mid-term targets for key mitigation sectors and include approaches and tools which can ensure efficiency and effectiveness of implementation, and in alignment with the SDGs.

Latin America & the Caribbean: 25 countries



In the Latin America and Caribbean region (LAC)¹⁰, UNDP's Climate Promise is supporting the NDC enhancement process in 25 countries, covering 4.84% of the global total GHG emissions. 10 countries are in the Caribbean sub-region and 15 are in the Latin American sub-region.

Submission Status and Ambition Intentions



As of 31 July 2021, 20 countries in the LAC region have submitted their enhanced NDCs and 14 of those countries have received direct support from UNDP's Climate Promise, representing 4.2% of the total global emissions. Nearly all of the countries that have submitted to date, including a major emitter (Argentina), have increased both mitigation and adaptation ambition. The exceptions are Mexico, which did not increase mitigation ambition, and Grenada, which did not include adaptation in its second NDC.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis in LAC, several countries have been delayed in the NDC process. Also, the complex electoral processes and government transitions that affected several countries in the region have impacted timelines in a number of countries. Nonetheless, despite these challenges, it is expected that 9 countries will submit their revised NDCs by COP26 and only 2

¹⁰ Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay

countries (Bahamas and Guyana) will likely submit their NDCs in 2022. Further, despite political and socioeconomic crises affecting many countries in the region, most governments are demonstrating an increased commitment to the Paris Agreement on par with the global average on ambition intention: with nearly 80% of the countries planning to increase their mitigation ambition and over 90% to enhance the adaptation component.

All submitted NDCs have improved the quality and robustness of their NDCs, including a deeper sectoral analysis, metrics (transparency) and public consultations processes considering innovative cross-cutting aspects such as gender, private sector and youth. In fact, all 14 countries have included gender considerations in their NDCs. **As part of the efforts on gender mainstreaming, several capacity building initiatives have been implemented including “The Gender and Nationally Determined Contributions Training Clinic Series in LAC” and the “Gender and Climate Change Capacity Building Process in Mexico”.** Some countries are also taking steps towards the link between the NDC and green recovery.

Emerging Trends – Private sector engagement

In the Latin America and Caribbean region, there is an increasing trend towards recognition of the need to align business strategies with society’s climate and development priorities, including the Paris goals and SDGs. It is becoming clearer that not only is this alignment necessary for the healthy performance of a business, but also for the creation of new, innovative business opportunities that reflect society’s shared values and needs.

Chile, Peru, Ecuador, and Panama are champion countries in the region that have developed innovative approaches to engage the private sector, with an impressive landscape of private actors already committed to the greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation agenda.

In **Chile**, the “Huella Chile” programme is looking to support and promote the quantification and voluntary management of GHG emissions at the corporate level, whether in the public or private sector. The programme comprises of more than one thousand companies and organizations, representing one of the most ground-breaking platforms in the region for the participation of the private sector in the climate agenda. The programme provides the appropriate tools for calculating the corporate carbon footprint, develops standardized formats and templates for reporting and dissemination, and supports the design of mitigation and monitoring plans. Additionally, the gender approach has been integrated into the criteria that companies must meet to be recognized for excellence under the HuellaChile Programme.

In **Peru**, building on the “Huella Chile” model, “Huella Peru” is an innovative tool that allows the recognition of public and private voluntary efforts to manage their GHG emissions to benefit the environment and national mitigation targets under the Paris Agreement. Using this tool, the Peruvian government is able to provide official recognition to public and private organizations for their efforts in reducing GHG emissions. It currently comprises of more than three hundred+ companies and organizations in the country.

In **Ecuador**, the “Carbon Neutral Certification” process is taking initial steps to build on the current Carbon Neutrality Mechanism which seeks to promote and compensate carbon emissions reductions through a reward certification scheme for the conservation, sustainable management, and restoration of ecosystem activities. A technical and legal standard is being designed, which will provide guidelines for a new Carbon Neutrality Mechanism that quantifies and reduces emissions towards carbon neutrality, including a national scheme for the compensation and promotion (through international markets) of sustainable and deforestation-free companies and/or products

In **Panama**, the “Reduce tu Huella” initiative has become a flagship program of the government that engages public and private companies to set voluntary commitments for carbon footprint reduction. This initiative has already attracted more than 50 companies and is expecting to attract many more in the coming years.

Country Spotlight: Honduras

Honduras submitted its updated NDC in May 2021 with the support of UNDP’s Climate Promise. The NDC update presented greater ambition compared to the first NDC, proposing to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by 16% by 2030 through 7 measures across prioritized sectors. There is also a strong focus on functional restoration of the rural landscape, aiming to increase forest restoration from 1 million to 1.3 million hectares. The Government presented its updated NDC as a “commitment of our people” with more robust content, including 13 national strategic objectives for the NDC, strengthened adaptation, increased measures for social inclusion (*gender equality and equity, young people, and indigenous and Afro-Honduran peoples*), climate finance, and MRV.

UNDP supported the delivery of i) a baseline report that brought together all key sectoral trend analyses and their mitigation potentials, ii) a roadmap for mitigation and adaptation that set the prioritized actions that the country must adopt towards the Paris Agreement goals, iii) a specific roadmap for financing the NDC implementation, and iv) a sectoral gender analysis, as well as a strategic roadmap for gender inclusion. The NDC was updated through a consultation process which involved 74 technical working meetings, 3 socialization workshops and two validation meetings with the NDC National Committee. Furthermore, a national workshop to validate the social inclusion and gender recommendations was organized with over 100 participants to include targeted populations such as, women, young people, and indigenous and Afro-Honduran Peoples. Overall, the whole process was developed in a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach and ensured a total alignment with Honduras national strategic objectives, the 2030 Agenda, and the SDGs.

III. FOCUS ON: Adaptation

The Critical Role of Adaptation and National Adaptation Plans in NDC Enhancement

There is increasing focus on the inclusion of adaptation in NDCs, with a stronger link to National Adaptation Plan (NAP) processes. While NDCs communicate a country's commitments under the Paris Agreement, NAPs provide detail on a country's medium- and long-term adaptation needs and implementation strategies. NAPs have two objectives: "a) to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, by building adaptive capacity and resilience, and b) To facilitate the integration of climate change adaptation, in a coherent manner, into relevant and existing policies, programmes and activities, in particular development planning processes and strategies, with all relevant sectors and at different levels, as appropriate."¹¹

The relationship between the NDCs and NAPs, as well as the Adaptation Communications (ACOMMs)¹², depends on the institutional context and country needs. As Climate Promise data shows, a majority of countries are planning to raise the level of ambition on adaptation, with many explicitly referring to NAPs for the development and implementation of adaptation priorities.

Initial progress on NAPs has been slow, especially for LDCs. According to [UNFCCC NAP Central](#), 22 countries have submitted NAPs (only six from LDCs) and 17 have submitted [Adaptation Communications](#), 11 of which were communicated as part of their revised NDCs. This means that there is still substantial scope for scaling up support for the development of NAPs with linkages to NDCs, such that countries can streamline channels to communicate progress and priorities to maximize resource efficiency. This is significant, because even where countries increase their adaptation ambition through the NDC enhancement process, NAPs are an important vehicle to deliver actions to achieve this ambition. It is critical that the NAP formulation process is closely interconnected with NDC enhancement.

Adapting for the future; NDCs and NAPs are mutually reinforcing

Throughout the NDC revision process, there is increasing effort to link the NDCs with NAP processes, which can help translate ambitious adaptation commitments into action. **Papua New Guinea** is a prime example, where their published [enhanced NDC](#) highlights the NAP process as one of its main implementation strategies. Specifically, the development of a PNG National Adaptation Plan (supported by UNDP) will help establish and strengthen national and sub-national capacity to implement climate change and development actions. This example not only highlights

¹¹ Decision 5/CP.17, Paragraph 1. Available [here](#)

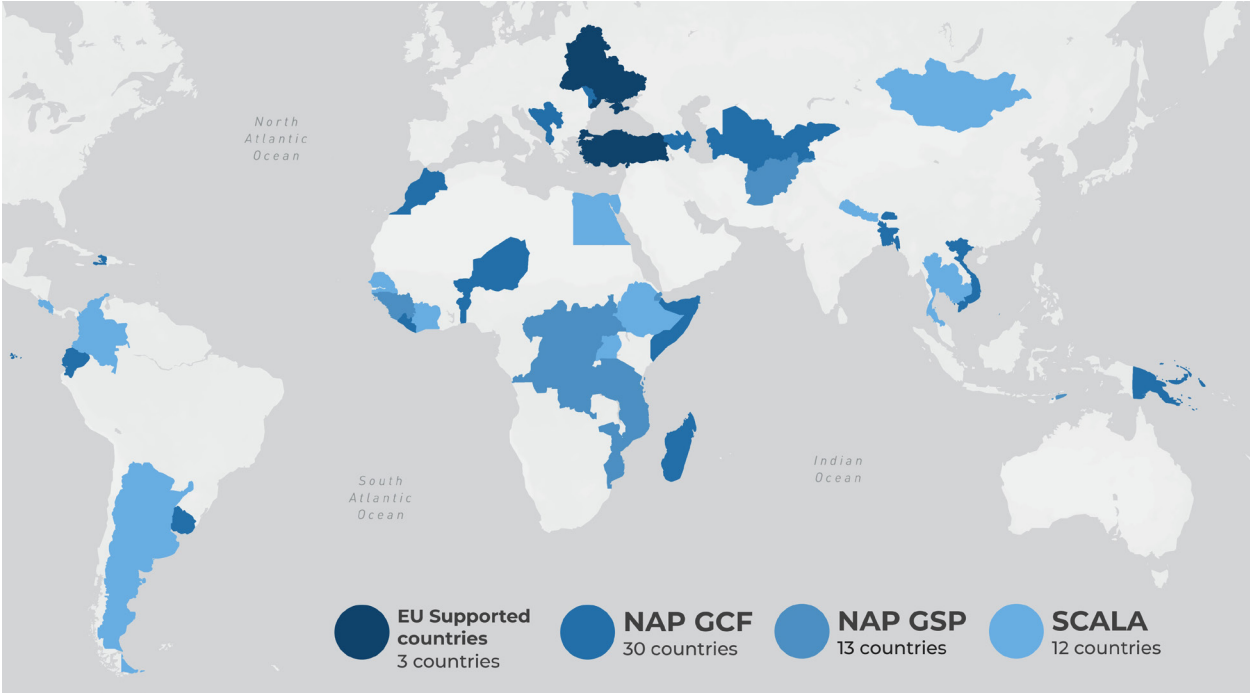
¹² Article VII of the Paris Agreement, which provides the mandate for NAP preparation, also states that each Party should submit and periodically update an Adaptation Communication, which may include information on its priorities, implementation and support needs, plans and actions. The adaptation communication shall be submitted, as appropriate, as a component of or in conjunction with other communications and/or documents, including a national adaptation plan, a national communication, a nationally determined contribution, or a biennial transparency report.

the mutual reinforcement of NAP and NDC, but also where the NDC highlights the importance of sub-national level implementation, particularly through **locally led adaptation**. In **Montenegro**, the recently updated NDC also references the future NAP, being supported by UNDP with financing from the GCF, as the main vehicle to implement the adaptation commitments and priorities of the NDC. In some countries, such as **Benin**, the relationship is reversed and the NAP formulation activities are driving the adaptation ambitions of the NDC. The NDC update process is being directly informed by the development of the NAP, which has been underway since 2018 with support from UNDP in collaboration with GIZ. Through this process, vulnerability assessments of key sectors informed a detailed appraisal of adaptation options, to ensure the most necessary and urgent adaptation options are implemented.

UNDP’s Technical Support on Integrated Adaptation Planning

Since 2020, there has been a gradual acceleration of NAP development processes around the world. UNDP is supporting this work in over 50 countries with a focus on alignment with the NDC enhancement processes. This is being done through a number of programmes, including the GEF-funded UNDP-UNEP NAP Global Support Programme (NAP GSP)¹³, NAP country projects funded by the GCF Readiness Window for adaptation planning (NAP GCF), the FAO-UNDP Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture ([SCALA](#)) programme funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI), the EU-funded [EU4Climate](#), and Africa Adaptation Initiative focused on risk transfer and knowledge management capacities and the SIDA funded Strategic Collaboration Programme.

Figure 5 – UNDP NAP Support



13 This programme ends in 2021.

Through these programmes, UNDP is promoting coherence, alignment, and follow-up for a long-term and integrated adaptation planning effort. This is done through specific technical assistance which align to the five service offers of the Climate Promise, as illustrated in Figure 6 below.

Figure 6 – UNDP’s technical assistance on integrated adaptation planning, aligned to the service offers of the Climate Promise



Overall, these programmes are geared towards building the data and evidence base, conducting risk assessments, assessing and building institutional and organizational capacities, developing national, subnational, or sectoral adaptation plans, catalyzing private sector engagement in adaptation finance, and supporting monitoring and evaluation systems for impactful adaptation investments. In many cases, the focus is on supporting and strengthening the supporting frameworks of this process. In other countries support is provided for the formulation of a NAP document itself or an adaptation strategy is at various levels. For example, UNDP supported **Uruguay** in development of a NAP that was submitted to the UNFCCC through both the [NAP cities](#) project, which focuses on urban resilience planning and the [NAP-Ag](#) focused on agriculture sector (in partnership with FAO).

Projects from UNDP’s NAP portfolio also provide sectoral integration support. There are at least 33 countries where UNDP is supporting countries in designing NAPs that target specific sectors. Of these countries, 28 target agriculture, 18 target water resources, 12 target public health, 7 target coastal areas, 5 target urban areas and human settlements. Most countries with sector prioritization focus on 3 to 6 sectors. UNDP is also supporting 31 countries to engage private sector for adaptation planning and investments. This includes substantively involving private sector coalitions, either

by engaging them in the NAP financing strategy development or by designing interventions with private sector engagement and support, or both.

The following section highlights concrete examples of support to countries in key areas of UNDP's technical assistance on integrated adaptation planning.

Using updated risk and vulnerability information to inform adaptation priorities

Robust adaptation decision-making must be informed by an accurate, evidence-based understanding of the risks the country faces. When **Liberia** embarked on its NAP process in 2015, it lacked a reliable evidence base to support national and sectoral adaptation planning strategies and policies. Even the adaptation chapter of its first NDC lacked detail. Through UNDP's support, Liberia has developed a Climate Change Policy and Response Strategy, assessed impacts of climate change on gender, launched its Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and database and introduced a graduate degree program on Climate Change Adaptation. These are informed by a cloud-based knowledge sharing platform for climate information with detailed risk assessments that Liberia conducted for its priority sectors. Thanks to the updated information, Liberia is currently updating its NDC¹⁴ with a much stronger chapter on adaptation.

Translating priorities into implementation and investment strategies

Moving from high level political priorities to operationalization requires more granular work – such as, but not limited to, data gathering, identification of adaptation options and development of investment ideas. For example, in **Thailand**, the updated NDC expands on adaptation and incorporates the NAP, including six identified priority sectors and suggests a concrete timeframe for NAP implementation. This will be followed up with dedicated financing to support planning on marine and coastal zones (GCF) as well as agriculture and land use (BMU SCALA). In **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (B&H), with finance from the GCF, the NAP identifies priority adaptation measures in the most vulnerable sectors. An accompanied monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework and climate change adaptation financing strategy with multi-year capital investment programs for piloted municipalities have been developed to support implementation, track progress and assess the effectiveness of the adaptation actions.

Sectoral integration of adaptation in agriculture and land use

Given the critical impact of climate change on the agriculture and land use sector, the joint BMU funded [FAO-UNDP NAP Agriculture](#) initiative contributed to the NDC update process across Asia, Africa and Latin America with a focus on agriculture. In Africa, it supported development of a study on long-term, low carbon, climate resilient agricultural development pathways for the agriculture sector in **Kenya**, **Uganda** and **Zambia**. In **Guatemala**, the same initiative contributed to the NDC update process, by providing institutional capacity building to track NDC adaptation indicators for the agriculture sector and contributing to the consolidation of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting system for agriculture (MER-Agriculture).

14 Analysis of Existing and Proposed Sectors for Updating Liberia's NDC (July 2020 Consultation Draft), p.156

Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture (SCALA)

SCALA, funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI), is building on previous NAP activities across 12 countries.¹⁵ The programme will invest €20 million between 2020 and 2025 to support countries to use NDCs and NAPs as entry points to apply **systems-level thinking** to identify climate actions with transformative potential; **cross-sectoral, gender-responsive and inclusive** approaches to planning to benefit the most vulnerable natural resource-dependent communities; as well as engagement with the **private sector**. The overall goal of the project is to support countries in translating their NDC and/or NAPs into actionable and transformative climate actions in land-use and agriculture with multi-stakeholder engagement. It is one of the flagship programmes of the collaboration between UNDP and FAO to enhance and implement NDCs.

Linking adaptation planning processes with green recovery efforts

UNDP is supporting several countries to proactively make the linkage between the NDC, NAP and Green Recovery. In **Viet Nam**, for example, the NDC calls for innovative solutions for green commodities, while the ongoing NAP process focuses on agriculture and rural development as key sectors. UNDP is now supporting actions in the dragon fruit supply chain, which has been severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and vulnerable to climate impacts. This includes NDC-aligned measures such as the use of drip-irrigation and energy efficient LED lights. **Uzbekistan** is also taking significant steps with support from UNDP to ensure that green recovery actions are aligned with both the NDC update and NAP formulation. In this case, the priorities outlined in the National Green Economy Roadmap, which guides the green recovery, are reflected in the NDC update and NAP process and vice versa. At the same time green recovery actions are being mainstreamed into actions in the NAP priority sectors of agriculture, water, health, housing, and emergency management.

Tracking progress on NAPs and Adaptation in the NDCs

As adaptation components of NDCs vary considerably in structure and substance it is often difficult to assess progress on adaptation. UNDP and the University of Maryland's (UMD) School of Public Policy have been developing a **typology to assess adaptation in NDCs**. The typology aims to capture and structure the key elements of adaptation content in NDCs, as a way to track progress, inform future revision cycles and better connect NDCs with detailed NAP processes. It builds on a review of scientific literature, an inductive assessment of actual contents of NDCs and a consultation with a wide range of experts from think tanks, academic institutions and technical partners. The typology is being finalized and applied to the first NDCs, resulting in a scientific paper and a technical brief. Options for enhancement are also proposed with a series of tools and resources to support the process and will be shared in the technical brief.

15

Argentina, Cambodia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cote D'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Mongolia, Nepal, Thailand and Uganda

Mobilizing political momentum for adaptation

Continued advocacy for the importance of adaptation, particularly in the most vulnerable countries, will help countries get the support they need to achieve their targets. UNDP is actively supporting the **Adaptation Action Coalition** co-led by the UK and Egypt, to increase the political momentum around adaptation on the road to COP26 and COP27. UNDP is also providing support to the **African Adaptation Initiative** in close coordination with UNFCCC focal points and the African Union. The programme, working

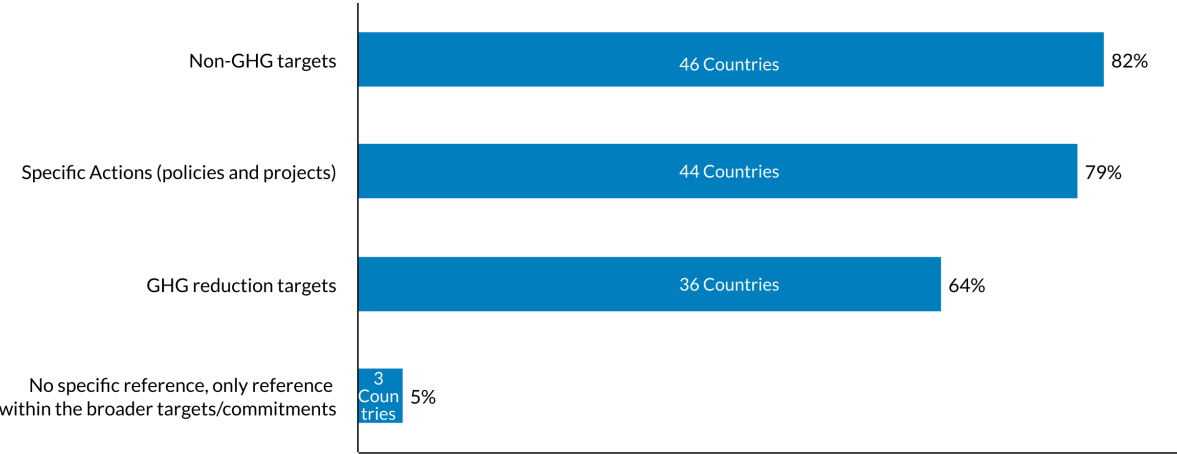
in close collaboration with AAI partners such as the African Union Commission, African Risk Capacity, African Development Bank, Global Center on Adaptation, GIZ, UNEP, and many others, is focusing on risk transfer and climate change adaptation knowledge in the African continent. The initiative aims to enhance the understanding of and capacity to expand existing climate information, risk and vulnerability studies and risk transfer options in Africa. The AAI is unique in that it was launched by African Heads of State and demonstrates African leadership in a way that galvanizes support to scale up adaptation ambition and action on the continent.

IV. FOCUS ON: Energy Commitments and Investments

Overview of Energy Targets in revised NDCs

Almost all countries make reference to the importance of the energy sector in their NDCs, primarily in the context of reducing GHG emissions, but also in promoting adaptation and resilience. All of the 56 Climate Promise countries who submitted revised NDCs as of 31 July 2021 have referred to energy in their updated submissions. Among these, 54 countries (95%) have standalone or detailed sections on energy targets or policies, and only three countries have more generic commitments. Looking at the geographical distribution, 13 out of 14 Latin American countries have dedicated plans on energy, recognizing that the most ambitious targets are often conditional on international support. For Asia and the Pacific, 16 out of 17 countries have covered energy in detail. In the Africa region, all 16 countries have included detailed measures and policies on energy, as well as all seven Eastern European countries and two Arab states have clear energy targets in their revised NDCs.

Figure 7 – Energy Commitments in 56 submitted NDCs



Exploring Energy Targets across Three Critical Dimensions: Transition, Access, and Resilience

UNDP is examining countries’ energy targets across these three dimensions, aligned with UNDP Signature Solution to close the energy gap: transition, access and resilience. **Energy transition** is about shifting from fossil fuels towards renewable energy and enhancing energy efficiency, with a focus on gender sensitivity and leaving no one behind. UNDP works on supporting systemic changes towards sustainable development and green recovery, bringing together the ideas and inputs from governments, business and finance with a view to accelerating energy transition. **Energy access**

consists of improving countries' access to clean electricity by various means, such as mini-grids, off grid solutions and clean cooking, including improved cookstoves, especially for marginalized people and communities. **Energy resilience** is about scaling sustainable energy solutions in the face of crises and climate impacts. UNDP supports driving innovation in energy value chains to speed up investments in energy access in off-grid and crisis-affected contexts. While energy transition may seem to have the closest ties to countries' NDCs, it is interesting to see that all three dimensions are considered by countries when setting their energy targets. The following sections highlight examples of where countries are putting forward targets and solutions on each.

Energy Transition: increasing energy efficiency and scaling renewable energy

The mitigation measures mentioned most frequently in countries' submitted NDCs relate to renewable energy generation, followed by energy efficiency improvements. Given that energy is responsible for 73% of global GHG emissions¹⁶, planning and implementing ambitious mitigation targets is indispensable to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. Many countries have put forward targets related to energy transition. Nonetheless, many NDCs could go further to match the actual, overall growth in renewable energy. Global capacity has expanded on average 8.6% per year since 2015¹⁷, thanks in part to a steep decline in the costs associated with various renewable technologies. For example, costs for electricity from utility-scale solar photovoltaics (PV) fell by 85% between 2010 and 2020.¹⁸

SIDS, who are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, present much more ambitious renewable energy targets in their updated NDCs compared to other countries. SIDS are heavily reliant on imported fossil fuels to power their economy, which adds to their energy fragility. Investing in clean energy in SIDS is a win-win solution that increases energy security and clean energy access in some of the world's most remote communities while contributing to achieving global climate goals. Although many are conditional on international support, SIDS tend to show a willingness to commit up to 100% renewable energy targets. The main sources of renewable energy are varied from country to countries, but include solar, wind, hydro/marine, bio plants and others.

For example, **Cabo Verde**'s updated NDC shows ambitious renewable energy generation targets, potentially leading to a major shift towards a low-carbon economy. This is done by increasing the renewable energy share in the electricity supply (today at 18.4%) to 30% in 2025 and up to 50% in 2030. With adequate support, the renewable energy target may go up to 100% by 2040. Similarly, **Nauru** has built a strong foundation to enable renewable energy expansion. Currently standing at a renewable energy share of 3%, the aim is to achieve 50% renewable energy capacity by the next decade.

16 IEA, 2019

17 IEA, 2019

18 [Renewable Power Generation Costs in 2020 \(irena.org\)](https://www.irena.org)

Papua New Guinea commits to increase their renewable energy target from 30% (2015) to 78% of installed on-grid electricity capacity by 2030, and conditionally up to 100% with international support. **Vanuatu** plans to replace fossil fuels with 100% renewable energy in the electricity generation sector. Furthermore, Vanuatu plans to roll-out an energy access programme to provide energy access to 80 percent of the rural population. This equates to approximately 90,000 people, including 44,237 women, totaling around 17,800 households. It also sets the target of 65% of renewable electricity use for rural tourism bungalows.

Energy Transition in the Transport and Building Sectors

Transport and Buildings are the most frequently cited sub-sectors in NDCs, as part of countries' energy transition plan.

Transport

Transport sector accounts for about one-quarter of global energy-related GHG emissions, but its dependence on fossil fuels remains high. Transport sector was mentioned the most out of all energy sub sectors in countries' submitted NDCs, with actions ranging from increasing fuel efficiency of public transport, to the use of renewable energy, to increasing electric vehicle' share and developing clean public transport. In its interim NDC, **Zambia** proposes to broaden the scope of sectors under mitigation by adding transport and coal (production, transportation and consumption) in the updated submission, which covers improved fuel efficiency, modal shift and improved transport infrastructure.

In addition, maritime transport accounts for a large percentage of national GHG emissions in SIDS and has not switched as swiftly from fossil fuel to electric compared to other means of transportation. At the same time, the world's economy still massively relies on international maritime transport to meet the needs of the population, which often represents a high-cost factor. In this regard, **Cabo Verde's** updated NDC announces that the country will join regional and international initiatives promoting low-carbon maritime transport, starting with the North-West African routes.

Buildings

Buildings account for one-third of global energy use. While a number of countries acknowledge the importance of addressing the challenges related to the building sector and aim for net-zero energy buildings by 2040 or earlier, concrete actions and targets in the building sector are not sufficiently indicated in many NDCs. The building sector is mentioned less than transport in the NDCs, and those countries who refer to buildings in the energy sector mostly mention improving energy efficiency: several countries include building energy codes, appliance standards, and concrete energy consumption targets.

For example, **Cambodia's** updated NDC extensively covers 14 mitigation activities and projects in both commercial and residential buildings, including establishing building codes and enforcement/certification for new buildings and those undergoing major renovation, in order to reduce electricity consumption by 10% in 2030. In **Lebanon**, while buildings was not mentioned in their first NDC, the enhanced NDCs commits unconditionally that 11% of the heat demand in the building sector be generated by renewable energy sources by 2030, and conditionally aims at 16.5% of the generation by 2030.

Energy Access: supplying clean cooking and electricity in rural communities

Currently, 759 million people, still lack access to electricity and 2.6 billion people in the world are without clean cooking solutions¹⁹. In some Asian and African countries' NDCs there are concrete targets that speak to these needs, including improving cook stoves and increasing access to electricity.

For instance, **Nepal** plans to ensure that 25% of households use electric stoves as their primary mode of cooking by 2030 and aim to install 500,000 improved cookstoves by 2025, specifically in rural areas. By the same date, Nepal plans to install an additional 200,000 household biogas plants and 500 large scale biogas plants. These three combined targets would reduce emissions around 11% by 2025 and 23% by 2030 from the cooking sector. In **Bangladesh**, following the proclaimed success of the Country Action Plan for Clean Cook Stoves 2013, a new National Action Plan for Clean Cooking in Bangladesh (2020-2030) is currently being formulated. Six million additional improved cook stoves are expected to be distributed by 2030. The country also aims to increase number of households using renewable off-grid energy sources for lighting.

19 IEA, IRENA, UN, World Bank and WHO, 2021.

Rwanda has one of the lowest electricity consumptions per capita in Africa, and generation capacity is low. Increasing the use of sustainable biomass and charcoal is a key priority for Rwanda's energy policy, given over 80% of Rwandan households use wood as their cooking fuel. Rwanda is making efforts to expand energy access to areas that are not covered by the national grid. For example, in its updated NDC, one of the conditional measures is to install 68 MWp of solar mini-grids in off-grid rural areas by 2030.

Energy Resilience: scaling sustainable energy solutions in the face of crises and climate impacts

It is increasingly clear that, beyond the mitigation potential of energy solutions, there is a need to ensure that these solutions are sustainable to multiple crises. The energy sector has the potential to contribute to countries' adaptation efforts, including enhancing resilient livelihoods and promoting peace and stability especially in the crisis countries. For example, in **Cambodia's** updated NDC, among 58 adaptation actions, 2 are related to energy resilience. The first consists of conducting climate risk analysis for the existing electricity infrastructures, while the second is about climate proofing existing and future solar and hydropower infrastructure.

Several countries also recognize the importance of sustainable infrastructure to deliver key development priorities. **Cabo Verde** also highlights the need for resilient infrastructure to benefit the population for energy, clean water, basic health, emergency and education services. Cabo Verde's 2030 commitment addresses the use of renewable energy for water supply mobilization, as well as implementing sustainable and resilient water management system. In **Sudan**, its interim updated NDC indicates one of the adaptation priorities in the Agriculture sector is through scaling up sustainable, efficient, renewable (e.g. solar) powered irrigation systems and in **Lebanon**, one of its key adaptation priorities is the use of renewable energy in agricultural irrigation and in drinking water supply.

Investment and de-risking for the energy sector

To enable the energy transition, access and resilience articulated in many countries' NDCs requires enormous investment from the public and private sectors. Pathways limiting global warming to 1.5°C are projected to involve annual average investment needs of around \$2.4 trillion in the energy system alone between 2016 and 2035.²⁰ As part of their NDCs, many countries stressed the condition of receiving international financial support to implement their activities, and in some cases have costed such needs. It is therefore fundamental to secure both public and private resources to achieve NDC targets.

20 IPCC, 2018: Global Warming of 1.5°C.

UNDP has developed a de-risking renewable energy investment framework that helps countries to conceive and implement utility-scale renewable energy project as well as distributed renewable energy solutions. The framework identifies systemic barriers and associated risks that constitute hurdles to private sector investment in renewable energy, before supporting the preparation of packages of targeted public interventions addressing these risks. As part of the Climate Investment Platform in collaboration with International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Sustainable Energy for All and the Green Climate Fund, UNDP encourages large and efficient climate investments that contribute to energy transition where most needed.

UNDP is supporting the Government of **Tonga**, through the Climate Promise, to prepare high level NDC financing pathways for both mitigation and adaptation actions across key sectors. These pathways are defined in its second NDC in key sectors and provide the Government with a map of past, current and potential future pathways to finance mitigation in these sectors, including the energy sector.

Mobilising Political Momentum - High Level Dialogue on Energy

A critical milestone in advancing global action on energy transition and energy access is the High-Level Dialogue on Energy. Held under the auspices of the General Assembly, the High-level Dialogue on Energy represents the first global gathering on energy since the UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy held in Nairobi in 1981. Marking the 40th anniversary of the Nairobi conference, it presents a historic opportunity to provide transformational action in the first years of the SDG Decade of Action and support the implementation of the Paris Agreement. As Co-Chair of UN-Energy, Mr. Achim Steiner, the Administrator of the UNDP, along with Ms. Damilola Ogunbiyi, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All, have been designated as the Dialogue Co-Chair to facilitate substantive content development, multi-stakeholder mobilization and inter-agency support.

In preparation for this event, the HLDE Ministerial Forum was held from 21-25 June 2021, representing a significant step to achieving universal clean energy access. Over 30 Energy Compacts and commitments were announced by member states, cities, businesses, and civil society organizations. In addition, there were clear calls for a new social contract, solidarity, and an all-of-society approach to tackling challenges related to energy access and energy transition. The need for a more balanced approach to the energy transition, focusing on both the supply and demand side and an inclusive approach to the planning and implementing energy policies, was also a prominent theme during the Ministerial Forum.

Many countries came forward to indicate ambitious commitments to contribute to achieving SDG 7, and net-zero emissions. These were all aligned with the countries' enhanced NDCs. For example, **India** announced an ambitious new renewable energy target of 450 Gigawatts of installed capacity by 2030. **Germany** pledged to reach a 30 percent share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption by 2030. **Denmark** expects 100 percent of its electricity consumption to be from renewable energy by 2028. Together, **Colombia, Chile, Dominican Republic** and the **Inter-American Development Bank** announced a regional compact to reach at least 70 percent renewable energy by 2030, the first initiative of its kind in the region. **Nauru** announced a comprehensive and ambitious Energy Compact that aims to achieve 50% electricity generation from renewable sources by 2023; a 30% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030 from a 2021 baseline; and a 20% vehicle fleet electrification by 2030. **Brazil** made two energy compacts in its role as Global Theme Champion for the Energy Transition to foster the development of a hydrogen industry and market and reduce the carbon intensity of the country's fuels matrix by 10% until 2030.

The Rockefeller Foundation, together with the IKEA Foundation, stepped forward with a US\$1 billion joint investment to tackle climate change and energy poverty. GOGLA, the professional association for the off-grid industry, is committed to delivering improved electricity access for 1 billion people by 2030 through deploying the latest innovations in distributed solar technology, efficient appliances, and decentralized business models. And Google seized the mantle of the first global corporation to present its ambitious energy compact. The Dialogue's Five Working Groups presented detailed recommendations on what is needed, at what scale and by when in the five themed reports.

Ahead of the High-Level Dialogue on Energy, scheduled for September 20, 2021, the working group reports and the Ministerial made one fundamental point clear - a bold, radical, system-wide shift is necessary to achieve a just energy transition that truly leaves no one behind and delivers clean energy access for all. There is an urgent need for clean energy access to ensure sustainable development for communities. The High-Level Dialogue on Energy provides an opportunity to advance practical solutions to accelerate the deployment of renewables globally and ensure that the developing world has access to them. The Dialogue will raise ambition and accelerate action towards achieving the SDG7 energy targets by catalyzing innovative solutions, investments and multi-stakeholder partnerships in support of the Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs and accelerate the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

V. FOCUS: UNDP's Moonshot Initiative

Greening Moonshot – UNDP's commitment to walking the talk

UNDP is committed to being green, sustainable, and just. 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 emissions must halve by 2030 and be reduced to net-zero by 2050. We lead on climate action by example – walking the talk. In August 2019, UNDP matched its commitment to supporting countries on raising climate ambition through their national climate pledges with its own pledge for greater ambition. UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner launched the 'Greening Moonshot', committing the organization to:



- 1. Reduce GHG emissions from UNDP operations 25% by 2025 and 50% by 2030**
- 2. Implement the best waste management in all UNDP premises**
- 3. Minimize the use of resources**

With the Moonshot Facility and Regional Bureaux Greening Funds, UNDP invests in green energy and energy efficiency measures throughout its offices – increasing operational resilience, saving costs and improving the health and well-being of staff and communities that UNDP serves. UNDP vehicle fleets are converting to electric or hybrid cars where feasible and safe, improving local air quality and further reducing their carbon footprint. By moving to cloud-computing and compact energy solutions to replace local data centers, UNDP has reduced its ICT footprint by 75% but also expanded virtual collaboration infrastructure and reduced the need for travel. UNDP is leveraging the experience of working virtually during the Covid-19 pandemic to mainstream best practice in virtual work and reduce mission travel's carbon footprint. And of course, UNDP is committed to go paperless and has banned single-use plastic from cafeterias and catering. And every day, UNDP staff around the world are implementing additional innovative solutions to achieve UNDP's ambitious Moonshot commitment.

Moonshot Facility - Transitioning to low carbon operations office by office

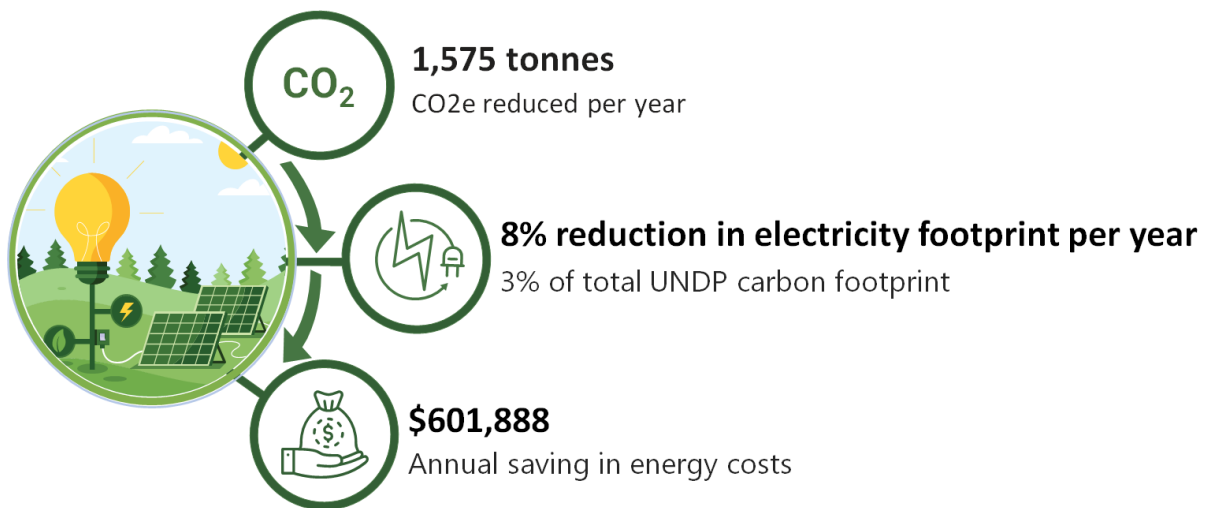


With an installed capacity of 110 kWp , the photovoltaic energy installation in UNDP's Sanaa office is the largest solar energy installation in the Arab States region. Photo: UNDP Yemen

Building on years of advancing environmental management throughout UNDP operations, in 2019 the 'Moonshot Facility' was set up to replicate and scale proven solutions as well as support green innovation to help meet Moonshot Targets. To achieve large reduction results quickly, contributions to the Moonshot Targets are incentivized on a competitive basis.

An annual call for proposals has generated 'greening' proposals for UNDP offices around the world. The priority was given to proposals that not only reduce GHG emissions substantially but also save costs and improve the well-being of staff and local communities. Initial investments have been directed, in particular, towards solar energy and energy efficiency solutions. For example, 65kWp grid-connected PV was implemented in Sri Lanka and 64kWp grid-connected PV was implemented in Dominican Republic. In Cameroon, energy efficiency and solar street lighting was put in place.

Figure 8 - Moonshot Facility investments 2020-2021



Source: UNDP Moonshot Secretariat

Figure 9 - 2019 Carbon Footprint of global UNDP operations, including all operational activities under UNDP management

REFRIGERANTS

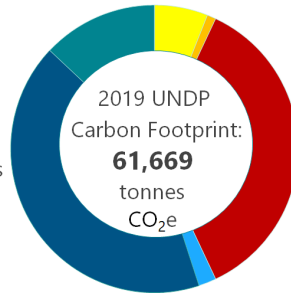
Leakage of refrigerants from air conditioners result in **3,702** tonnes CO₂e, equivalent to **6%** of UNDP’s carbon footprint.

VEHICLE

Vehicle operations- including fuel use and leakage of refrigerants- generate **7,703** tonnes CO₂e accounting for **12%** of GHG emissions.

AIR TRAVEL

Generating **25,783** tonnes CO₂e, air travel is with **42%** UNDP’s largest source of GHG emissions.



HEATING

Heating, mostly in form of district heating, generates **803** tonnes CO₂e and is responsible for **1%** of UNDP’s carbon footprint.

ELECTRICITY

22,631 tonnes CO₂e or **37%** of UNDP’s carbon footprint results from electricity use including grid electricity and generator fuels.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

With **1,047** tonnes CO₂e, train, bus and taxi travel makes up for **2%** of UNDP’s carbon footprint.

Source: UNDP Environmental Management Tool

Monitoring, disclosing and offsetting the carbon footprint of UNDP’s global operations

Monitoring and disclosing UNDP’s environmental performance consistently, transparently and continuously has been the key to taking responsibility for its environmental footprint and informing greening strategies - ensuring efforts are focused on where they make greatest impact.

GHG emissions monitoring is also the basis for credibly reporting on progress toward UNDP’s Moonshot commitment and for offsetting GHG emissions to achieve climate neutrality. **UNDP has been climate neutral since 2015.** Every year, we purchase Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) from the UNFCCC Adaptation Fund established under the Kyoto Protocol of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

UNDP has monitored and disclosed the carbon footprint of our world-wide offices and operational activities as part of the UN-wide [Greening the Blue report](#) annually since 2009.

“We cannot advise over 140 countries on raising their ambitions to reach the Sustainable Development Goals without doing so ourselves.”



-Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator

At the current rate of progress, UNDP is heading towards reducing facilities’ energy consumption by 50% by 2030. Combined with the efforts to switch to electric vehicles and the commitment to a moderate rebound of UNDP mission travel post COVID-19 pandemic, UNDP is well on track towards achieving its ambitious Moonshot Commitments.

VI. Knowledge sharing and resources

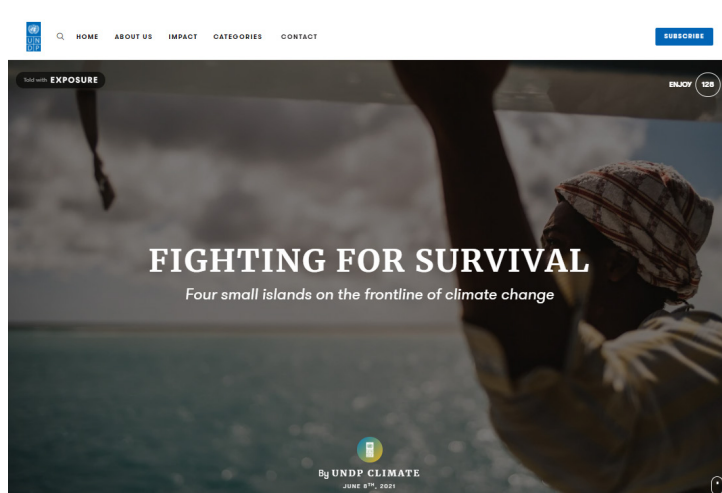
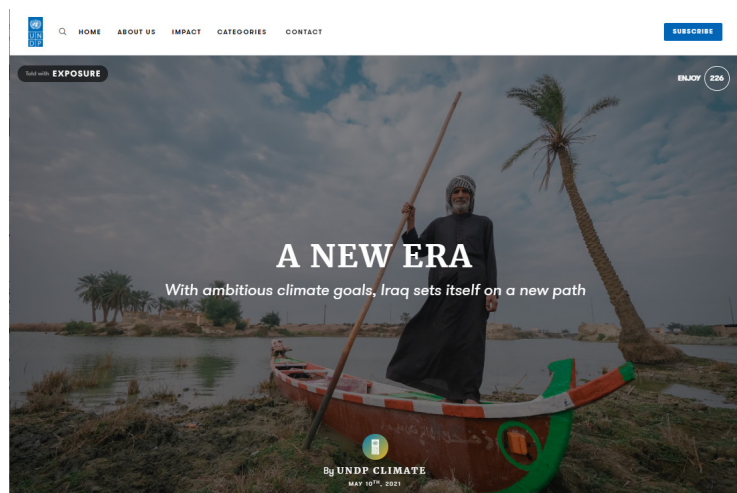


A number of key resources have been developed and disseminated under UNDP’s Climate Promise, reflecting good practice, global trends and guidance for support. For example, a Gender Analysis was conducted in **Bhutan** with the support of the NDC Support Programme, and subsequently [a report was published to share the findings](#). In **The Gambia**, a report was published which, through a comprehensive analysis of resource flows and their impacts on the quality of natural assets, served as the basis for a stakeholder process to identify circular [GHG mitigation potential](#). The report supports an update of The Gambia’s GHG mitigation commitments in its current NDC. In addition, [a study was conducted of all 186 first round NDCs](#)

[together with UNFCCC and typology](#) showing how Member States are addressing climate-related security risks in their NDC submissions, offering guidance on mainstreaming climate security into climate policy and programming. Lastly, a Gender Checklist was developed to provide guidance on the key elements needed to include gender equality and women’s empowerment in climate policy development. The guide is intended for use by countries who are updating NDCs, designing new climate policies, and/or developing sectoral policies to respond to climate impact.

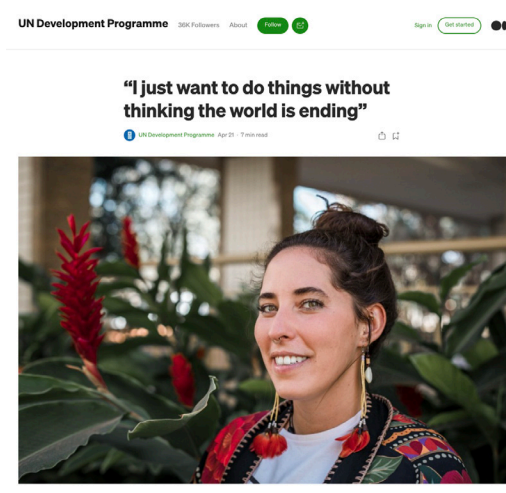
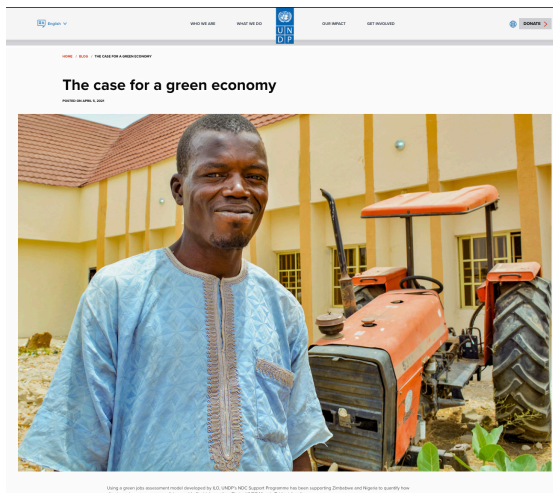
Photo essays and blogs

Storytelling is an essential tool to put a face on the important work being by countries under the Climate Promise, and to share these stories to motivate others to take action. To this end, a number of essays have been developed to describe and illustrate the impact being seen on the ground. Utilising the Exposure platform, photo stories were told on [climate ambition of Iraq](#), as well as [four small island developing states](#) that are taking leadership despite challenges.



Support has also been provided to prepare and publish press releases of NDC submission to maximize the exposure of such submissions, celebrating the governments and member states for their hard work and efforts. Press releases were published on submissions of [North Macedonia](#), [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), [Lebanon](#), [Armenia](#), [Georgia](#) and [Honduras](#). Another press release was published on the global campaign UNDP joined with 13 other international entities to promote the value of climate transparency.

UNDP’s thought leadership was also showcased through a series of blog posts, which reflect on accomplishments, challenges and lessons learned from UNDP’s Climate Promise in real time. [One blog focused on green recovery](#), specifically looking at UNDP and ILO’s partnership supporting governments in Nigeria and Zimbabwe to make an evidence-based shift to a green economy, highlighting benefits for people and the climate. Another blog post captured [reflections from the UNDP office in Dominican Republic](#), zooming in on their efforts to reduce the carbon footprint of their operations. Finally, to mark the occasion of Earth Day 2021, [we conducted an interview with youth climate activist Paloma Costa](#), on the importance of diversity and inclusion, and why it matters to include young voices in climate processes.



Events

A number of events took place over the last quarter to showcase lessons and experience from the Climate Promise countries and help foster knowledge-sharing and learning among stakeholders involved in climate action.

As part of the **World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF) + Climate event** held on 15 and 16 April, UNDP's Administrator participated in the [high-level opening](#) alongside Ministers from the Netherlands, Chile, and Kenya, Executive Vice President of the European Commission as well as other UN agency principals (tweets [here](#) and [here](#)). The NDC Support Programme's Country Manager for Uganda participated in the WCEF+Climate session on "[Realising Our Climate Ambitions: Circular Economy in National Climate Plans](#)" to highlight the work countries under the Climate Promise are doing on circular economy and NDCs. The intervention highlighted where potential entry points could be leveraged for enhanced ambition and the results of the Peoples' Climate Vote in relation to circular economy interventions. As part of the [outcome statement](#) for the global event, UNDP made a commitment (#19) and a joint commitment with UNEP (#20) to continue efforts to support countries to integrate circular economy approaches, policies and strategies in their revised NDCs. Finally, Climate Promise work on circular economy was also shown through an [engaging video](#) with Ulrika Modéer, Director of UNDP's Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy (BERA), for the event (tweets [here](#), [here](#), [here](#)). This video was also shown throughout the 2-day event on the WCEF+Climate "[CE Champions Commitments](#)" channel.

UNDP also participated in the "[Path to COP26](#)" event organized by COP26 Principal Partner, SSE Energy, where support for countries on private sector engagement in NDCs and the importance of non-state actors in the NDC process was highlighted.

UNDP is as core partner of the Regional Climate Weeks (RCWs), co-organised with UNFCCC, UNEP and the World Bank. The [RCW for Latin America and the Caribbean \(LACCW\)](#) (LACCW) took place from 11-14 May 2021. As lead for track 2 on integrated approaches for climate-resilient development, 12 sessions were organised to showcase country experiences, best practices and lessons learned throughout the 4-day event. Climate Promise countries showcased their work on managing climate change risk comprehensively in key systems, including through National Adaptation Plans; integrated support for acceleration of climate resilience - from assessment to the design and implementation of programmes; and partnerships and collaboration for broader climate action and mobilization for climate resilience. The final output report of the LACCW can be found [here](#).

The RCW for Asia-Pacific (APCW), which took place from 6-9 July 2021, included 11 sessions which showcased country experiences, best practices and lessons learned on climate change adaptation. This includes a focus on adaptation co-benefits of mitigation efforts, and climate risk management for climate-resilient development. UNDP convened the first panel discussions in the region on climate security and gender, including women peacebuilders and the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat. Overall, a particular focus was on integrated approaches and inclusivity, hearing from national and sub-national governments, youth, the private sector, indigenous peoples' and local communities as well as a range of other key stakeholders involved in climate action.



The final RCW for Africa is tentatively scheduled for 27-30 September 2021. Sessions will include managing climate risk, including data, tools and information; building resilience in food systems through nature-based solutions; strengthening inclusivity in climate-resilience planning and implementation; and innovative financing for climate risk and resilience-building, among others. The output reports of the APCW and Africa CW will be made available in due course.

In addition to the RCWs, a separate event on [Gender Data for better Climate Transparency in the LAC Region](#) was organized by UNDP in collaboration with the Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement (PATPA) to increase awareness and capacity on the nexus between gender equality and climate transparency systems. The event targeted Ministries of Environment, gender national institutions and National Bureaus of Statistic, over 100 participants attended the event.

In June, the regional climate education conference. **“Education and awareness for climate action in Eastern Europe and Central Asia”** brought together over 300 participants from 11 countries in the region and international partners including UNESCO, UNITAR, UNFCCC, YOUNGO and the UN SG Youth Advisory Group on Climate. Delegates discussed how the public education sector could mainstream the climate agenda, support young climate leaders, and promote ambitious climate action. The Youth Forum as part of the conference allowed students to share their ideas and initiatives with peers across the region – hear their messages [here](#).

UNDP organized a Roundtable “Powering the Clean Energy Transition: Innovation from the Frontlines” at the prestigious [Reuters Events: Global Energy Transition](#) event to showcase the innovative and transformational climate action we are seeing in the energy sector from some of the frontlines of climate change. Innovative and inclusive initiatives were showcased from countries under the Climate Promise including The Gambia, Kenya, Iraq and Uruguay.

VII. Looking Forward: Less than 100 days to COP26

It is clear that the momentum is building in the run up to COP26, and that many countries are stepping up with more robust and ambitious climate pledges. However, with less than 100 days until Glasgow, the stage is set for an increasingly difficult atmosphere at COP26. With the added pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic, the socio-economic impacts and opportunities of ambitious climate action are even more critical to capture and leverage. While the data continues to show the greatest ambition amongst the smallest and most vulnerable countries, leadership is emerging amongst some of the higher-emitters that demonstrate commitment to the achievement of the Paris Goals.

Notably, deep disagreements over finance continue to remain central to further advancing multilateral action under the Paris Agreement. Developed countries have not yet offered new financial commitments to the call for greater international support. In response, developing countries made their position clear: without the provision of financial and technological support, accelerated ambition cannot be achieved. Two reports have recently been published that provide further data to the discourse: [International Energy Agency](#) indicated that only 2% of the recovery spending has been allocated for the transition to clean energy and [Bloomberg Philanthropies and BloombergNEF](#) stated that G20 countries have provided more than \$3.3T in subsidies for fossil fuels since the Paris Agreement was signed.

Nonetheless, there are no shortage of opportunities for countries to advance discussions, share experience and ultimately step up. Meetings such as UNGA, HLDE, Food Systems Summit, CBD COP, G20 and Pre-COP26 will provide delegations with chances to scale-up commitments and bridge divides. With one of the largest footprints globally in supporting countries' NDC enhancement through the Climate Promise, UNDP is continuing to capture and communicate insights on emerging trends, challenges and champions on NDCs. With a strong focus on supporting countries' national processes, these insights are also being shared with regional and global audiences to help inform the process, demonstrating that ambition is not only possible but already happening, and sharing the voices of those leading this effort.

Annex I: List of Climate Promise Countries which have submitted revised NDCs as of 31 July 2021

Country	Submission Date	Mitigation Ambition	Adaptation Ambition
Arab States			
Lebanon	Mar. 2021	✓	✓
Morocco	Jun. 2021	✓	✓
Somalia	Jul. 2021	✓	✓
Europe and Central Asia			
Armenia	May 2021	✓	✓
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Apr 2021	✓	✓
Georgia	May 2021	✓	✓
Moldova	Mar. 2020	✓	✓
Montenegro	Jun. 2021	✓	✓
North Macedonia	Apr 2021	✓	✗
Ukraine	Jul. 2021	✓	✓
Africa			
Angola	May 2021	✓	✓
Cabo Verde	Apr. 2021	✓	✓
Ethiopia	Jul. 2021	✓	✓
Guinea	Jul. 2021	✓	✓
Kenya	Dec. 2020	✓	✓
Malawi	Jul. 2021	✓	✓
Namibia	Aug. 2021	✓	✓
Nigeria	Jul. 2021	✓	✓
Rwanda	May 2020	✓	✓
Sao Tome and Principe	Jul. 2021	✓	✓
Seychelles	Jul. 2021	✓	✓
Sierra Leone	Jul. 2021	✓	✓
Sudan	May. 2021 (interim)	unlikely	likely
Tanzania	Jul. 2021	✓	✓
Zambia	Jul. 2021	✗	✓

Country	Submission Date	Mitigation Ambition	Adaptation Ambition
Asia and the Pacific			
Bangladesh	Dec. 2020 (interim)	likely	likely
Bhutan	Jun. 2021	✓	✓
Cambodia	Dec. 2020	✓	✓
Indonesia	Jul. 2021	✗	✓
Lao PDR	May 2021	✓	✓
Malaysia	Jul. 2021	✓	✓
Maldives	Dec. 2020	✓	✓
Mongolia	Oct. 2020	✓	✓
Nepal	Dec. 2020	✓	✓
Papua New Guinea	Dec. 2020	✓	✓
Philippines	Apr. 2021	✓	✗
Samoa	Jul. 2021	✓	✓
Sri Lanka	Jul. 2021	✓	✓
Thailand	Oct. 2020	✗	✓
Tonga	Dec. 2020	✓	✓
Vanuatu	Mar. 2021	✓	✓
Viet Nam	Sep. 2020	✗	✓
Latin America and the Caribbean			
Argentina	Dec. 2020	✓	✓
Chile	Apr. 2020	✓	✓
Colombia	Dec. 2020	✓	✓
Costa Rica	Dec. 2020	✓	✓
Dominican Republic	Dec. 2020	✓	✓
Ecuador	Mar. 2019	✓	✓
Grenada	Nov. 2020	✓	✗
Honduras	May 2021	✓	✓
Mexico	Dec. 2020	✗	✓
Panama	Dec. 2020	✓	✓
Paraguay	Jul. 2021	✗	✓
Peru	Dec. 2020	✓	✓
Suriname	Dec. 2019	✓	✓
Uruguay	Nov. 2017 (update planned Nov. 2022)	✓	✓



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