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Future NDC Updates in Kyrgyzstan

Reflection note 2022

Executive Summary

Nationally Determined Contributions, NDCs, are the **key instrument of global climate change policy**. Kyrgyzstan has developed its first NDC intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) in 2015 and its First National Contribution in 2020. In October 2021, an updated NDC was submitted to UNFCCC.

Developed on the request of the Ministry of Environmental Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision, this reflection note summarizes **learnings from the last NDC Update process** and proposes an **approach for future NDC Update processes**. The document is guided by the wish of Kyrgyzstan Government institutions to conduct the NDC in a country-owned, inclusive, and transparent way. The Kyrgyzstan Government representatives also requested this document to be easy-to-use and written in a simple understandable language in a simple format.

Successful and helpful NDCs therefore have two main characteristics. Firstly, they **serve their countries**. This refers to both the process in which they are developed and the final product. Countries can use NDC Processes, for instance, to establish or strengthen cooperation (between public institutions and between public institutions, private sector, and civil society) for dealing with climate change, to create a reference document and build leadership, motivate, and orient institutions for climate action to attract external funding. Secondly, NDCs need to be **in line with the UNFCCC requirements** for NDC, especially regarding ambition and information necessary for clarity, transparency, and understanding (ICTU).

The Paris Agreement states that Parties have to communicate NDCs **every five years** from 2020 onwards (Article 4.9), irrespective of their implementation time frames. Currently the following next steps regarding NDC are requested or encouraged by countries:

- **Until End of 2022: An NDC Enhancement** to be handed in October 2022 (Glasgow Decision CMA/1, Article 29 – The COP/CMA “... request Parties to revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets

in their nationally determined contributions as necessary to align with the Paris Agreement temperature goal by the end of 2022, taking into account different national circumstances”);

- **Until 2025: An NDC Update** to cover a new five-year period from 2031 (Glasgow Decision CMA/x, Article 29 – The COP/CMA “... encourages parties to communicate in 2025 a nationally determined contribution with an end date of 2035, in 2030 a nationally determined contribution with an end date to 2040, and so forth every five years thereafter”).

To base the recommendations of this paper on a broad scope of different voices from NDC process participants in Kyrgyzstan, interviews were conducted with representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources, ministries, state agencies, development partners, and NGOs. Views differ in their evaluation of the process, but similar points were mentioned regarding aspects of the process the interviewees would like to keep, including participatory formats, and aspects they preferred to be done differently, e.g., a permanently responsible structure and a clear process structure.

The Document proposes to structure future NDC Update processes into the following steps and elements. In practice, these are not meant to be conducted in a purely linear manner but need to be conducted in an iterative way and can also overlap.

Step1 (Planning and preparing the process)

comprises the Updating and further development of the institutional framework for the NDC Process, including an NDC Core team and Inter-ministerial Working Group and high-level group. It also entails the definition of the scope and purpose of the update, the planning of in the inclusive update process and the integration of key stakeholders such as science and implementing agencies. This also includes using existing knowledge management system, or, if they do not exist in a functional way for the NDC Process, to update them or set them up.

In **Step 2 (Deepening the understanding of the situation, needs and options)** the involved institutions take a whole-of-society approach by extensive stakeholder engagement, e.g., with climate change conversations. It also includes a review of scientific studies for the sectors and scouts internationally for relevant best practices. Lastly it also seeks to understand the climate change related needs of the private sector.

During **Step 3 (Discussing results and priorities for action)** firstly a robust and motivation vision is formulated in line with national strategies, before a broad variety of options, measures and policies are collected e.g., in a national citizens' assembly. This is followed by a prioritisation and the development of the NDC document structure.

In **Step 4 (Adding details and drafting the NDC)** concrete ambitious measures and key action items are developed, followed by a review of available financing mechanisms, and means of implementation. Once these is finalized, the NDC text is drafted and afterwards consultations are held to reach an agreed version of the finalized text.

Step 5 (Adopting the NDC formally) comprises the formal adoption itself including recommendations on high-level endorsement. It indicated relevant aspects regarding the submission of the NDC to UNFCCC and provides orientation on how to celebrate the result and process and build awareness regarding the nation's NDC. As last aspect it entails the harvesting and capturing of learnings e.g., with a lessons learned workshop.

Finally, **Step 6 (Implementation, tracking progress and measuring of impacts)** entails the development of strong implementation action plan, followed by the implementation of the plan. Important elements of this step are also to ensure monitoring and evaluation using an MRV system and continued joint learning.

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List of Abbreviations

BAU	Business as usual
CMA	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement
COP	Conference of the Parties
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ECBI	European Capacity Building Initiative
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH (German federal enterprise for international cooperation)
ICTU	Information necessary for clarity, transparency, and understanding
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contribution
IRENA	International Renewable Energy Agency
LT-LEDS	Long-term low emission development strategy
MRV	Monitoring, reporting and verification
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NDC-P	Nationally Determined Contribution Partnership
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Introduction



Nationally Determined Contributions, **NDCs**, are the key instrument of global climate change policy. They can also support countries in their national climate change policies, can motivate and mobilize action in country and help to build robust institutions and networks. However, there is a great heterogeneity in the way countries internationally approach NDCs and NDC Update processes and in the structure, they give to NDC documents.

Kyrgyzstan has developed its first NDC intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) in 2015 and its First National Contribution in 2020. In October 2021, an updated NDC was submitted to UNFCCC. The State Committee on Ecology and Climate, now superseded by the Ministry of Environmental Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision, as a coordinating body for the NDC processes, has asked GIZ for support in outlining key steps and consideration of future NDC update processes.

This **reflection note** summarizes facts about NDCs (Chapter 1), outlines key learnings from NDC updates worldwide (Chapter 2) and lessons learned and perspectives on Kyrgyzstan's last NDC update process (Chapter 3). On this base it proposes a 6-step approach for NDC updates in Kyrgyzstan (Chapter 4) and describes the 6 steps (Chapter 5).

The document is guided by the wish of Kyrgyzstan Government institutions to conduct the NDC in a **country-owned, inclusive, and transparent way**. The Kyrgyzstan Government representatives also requested this document to be easy-to-use and written in a simple understandable language in a simple format.

This document was developed through an inclusive process based on co-creation and joint reflection. After initial conversation with State Committee on Environment and Climate Change, during September 2021 interviews and conversation were held with persons and institutions involved in the NDC Update process. Key elements of a possible future NDC Update process were discussed in a workshop on 2 December 2021.

1. Key facts about NDCs and NDC Updates

According to the “Paris Agreement”, adopted under UNFCCC in 2015, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are the **actions** that member countries plan to undertake **to address climate change**.

Collectively, these actions, are meant to make sure that the overall objective of global climate change policy is achieved, namely *“Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C and pursue efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels (Article 2.a Paris Agreement).”*

The name “nationally determined” stresses that countries themselves decide on the ambitions and actions contained in NDCs as well as the form in which they formulate and present the document.

Successful and helpful NDCs therefore have two main characteristics:

Firstly, they serve their countries. This refers to both the process in which they are developed and the final product.

Country-specific intentions of an NDC could be to establish or strengthen institutional cooperation for dealing with climate change, to create a reference document and build leadership, motivate, and orient institutions for climate action or to reflect the country’s development path in times of climate change and attract external funding. This allows countries to align their climate actions with framework documents like national long-term strategies and embed the elaboration process in existing political decision-making routines.

It also gives reference to the fact that for being successful, climate action requires an overarching approach demanding an economic and social transformation in many fields (energy, production, construction, etc.) and therefore sufficient capacities in all relevant fields. Accordingly, the processes around an NDC therefore often include a capacity development component

Secondly, they are in line with the UNFCCC requirements for NDC, especially regarding ambition and information necessary for clarity, transparency, and understanding.

Despite the “nationally determined” nature of NDCs, there are certain information that NDCs need to give. The most explicit one is stated in Article 4.2 of the Paris Agreement, which requires NDCs to include a mitigation contribution and Article 4.8 that requests “information necessary for clarity, transparency, and understanding”, ICTU, (see Articles 4.2 and 4.8 of the Paris Agreement).

The greenhouse gas reduction, Mitigation (Article 4) targets and actions the country has decided to take can be absolute or relative targets and the country can specify between unconditional targets it can reach on its own and more ambitious conditional targets the country is willing to address if assisted technically, financially, or alike. It was further specified in the Katowice guidance on ICTU (see Annex 2) that NDCs should contain the following information regarding their mitigation aspect (Katowice Decision 1/CP.21):

- Quantifiable information on the reference point (including, as appropriate, a base year);
- Time frames and/or periods for implementation;
- Scope and coverage of the NDC;
- Planning processes;



- Assumptions and methodological approaches, including for estimating and accounting for anthropogenic GHG emissions and, as appropriate, removals;
- How the Party considers that its NDC is fair and ambitious, in the light of its national circumstances;
- How the NDC contributes towards achieving the objective stated in UNFCCC Article 2 (e.g., to limit global warming well below 2°C).

Next to the core mitigation part of NDCs, Article 3 of the Paris Agreement suggests that NDCs may also contain components related to:

- Adaptation (Article 7 Paris Agreement);
- Finance (Article 9 Paris Agreement);
- Technology development and transfer (Article 10 Paris Agreement);
- Capacity building (Article 11 Paris Agreement);
- Transparency (Article 13 Paris Agreement).

Find examples of different approaches to NDCs in Annex 3.

According to Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, NDCs to contain “highest possible ambition” that are communicated every 5 years, always more progressive in moving towards “economy-wide absolute emissions reduction targets”, “informed by the outcomes of the global stocktake”. Besides, they should be accounted for in order to “promote environmental integrity, transparency, accuracy, completeness, comparability and consistency, and ensure the avoidance of double counting” (Article 4 of the Paris Agreement).

ENHANCEMENT AND UPDATE PROCESSES

The Paris Agreement states that Parties have to communicate NDCs every five years from 2020 onwards (Article 4.9), irrespective of their implementation time frames. A Party can update its NDC at any time, if the update is more ambitious and does not “backslide” to lower ambition. For each five-year cycle, Parties are expected to submit their NDCs at least 9-12 months in advance of the relevant session of the COP (ECPI 2020).

Currently the following next steps regarding NDC are requested or encouraged by countries:

- **Until End of 2022: An NDC Enhancement** to be handed in October 2021 (Glasgow Decision CMA/1, Article 29 – The COP/CMA “... request Parties to revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets in their nationally determined contributions as necessary to align with the Paris Agreement temperature goal by the end of 2022, taking into account different national circumstances);
- **Until 2025: An NDC Update** to cover a new five-year period from 2031 (Glasgow Decision CMA/x, Article 29 – The COP/CMA “... encourages parties to communicate in 2025 a nationally determined contribution with an end date of 2035, in 2030 an nationally determined contribution with an end date to 2040, and so forth every five years thereafter”).

This document primarily focuses on NDC updates but gives recommendations for the smaller 2022 Enhancement process after each step in Chapter 6.



2. Learnings from other countries regarding NDC Update

The following international lessons learned can be helpful in designing future NDC Update Process for Kyrgyzstan and have been used in the development of this guideline.

1. The importance of an effective governance system: For the success of NDC it is important to set up an effective institutional arrangement and governance system, both on technical and political level. It is key to implicate the entire range of all relevant line ministries and agencies into the process. Ministries coordinating the formulation of NDCs need to work closely with the Ministry of Finance and sectoral ministries in the NDC updating and implementation process.

Climate change is a highly cross-cutting challenge that cannot effectively be tackled with the common way in siloed approaches. This also includes involving the private sector, civil society, and science throughout the process.

2. Process structure and leadership: According to the objectives a country wants to reach with its NDC (see Chapter 2), a process needs to be planned and agreed which is adapted to the countries needs and possibilities. There needs to be effective leadership to support and incentivise their action and collaboration. The coordinating ministry needs to provide a supportive framework for the stakeholders and institutions involved to go through the phases, open rooms for reflection and discussion and prepare the next steps, while not pushing for own agenda.

3. Being centred on a strong vision: The centre piece of a successful NDC is to contain a strong vision of how the countries climate-friendly climate-resilient development would look like. This vision needs to be based in in-depth analysis, ideally stemming from a LTS exercise, where key milestones of an LTS can serve as goals of a sequence of NDC's. If this vision is consistent with a narrative about how the country will develop in the future, it gives guidance to all elements of an NDC. While this vision can also contain a quantitative part, it is important that it is understandable and communicable to people. It contains topics such as energy sources, focus of industrial development and the way people will work together towards a safe, healthy and climate friendly future.

4. The necessity of a whole-of-society approach in the NDC Process: An effective and inclusive engagement with stakeholders from the public and private sectors, civil societies, and academia, as well as youths, women, and marginalized and vulnerable groups, is important to ensure that all facets of society accept NDCs. This whole-of-society approach also ensures that no important parts of action are left out. Different players have very different views on what is needed and bring in their limitations of action. If these voices are not heard, decisions will lack support and might not be effective. If key players are not able to bring in their opinion, they will not be active in the subsequent action. This also includes listening to uncomfortable voices. There is a large body of international experience of group settings and conferences that can bring stakeholders together to discuss their climate change action. Also, patterns of competition and non-cooperation between actors, e.g., implementing agencies, can be overcome by collaboration on joint outcomes.



5. The development of a trustful cooperation and communication climate:

In national climate policies many entities interact, for instance, Ministries, funders, implementing agencies, national and international climate change or sectoral experts, private sector, and civil society. These and many more actors interact in national climate policy in a complex setting, influencing one another. A strong vision and a respectful culture of interaction and communication inviting their constructive contributions can be purposefully established. They need to have opportunities to come together regularly for designing and implementation climate-change related activities.

6. Continuous learning and development:

The idea of national NDCs processes co-acting on an international level, is unprecedented. The instrument of NDCs is still rather new and needs to evolve over time with experiences being collected with NDCs and political development. In a robust self-governing system, these developments should be used as a constant chance for learning and development. Actions planned in an NDC need to be regularly reviewed and further developed in explicit learning loops.



3. Retrospective on Kyrgyzstan's NDC Update Processes

In its **NDC update of 2021** Kyrgyzstan sets out a climate change strategy for 2030 and recognizes the importance of adopting a low-carbon development strategy aiming at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 16.63% or 36.61% with international assistance until 2025 and 15.97% or 43.62% with international assistance and the announced intention to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

The process to work on this update has been **facilitated by UNDP** and took place between February 2020 and October 2021. This process included several formats to integrate the different stakeholders (besides government also civil society, private sector, youth, science, media, development partners, etc.). The NDC was drafted with consideration given to a “comprehensive”-state approach and was approved by a decree of the Coordination Council on Issues of Climate Change, Environment and Green Economy headed by the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic. Under the overall coordination of the State Committee for Ecology and Climate of the Kyrgyz Republic and with the participation of an inter-agency working group, as well as with the involvement of experts and representatives of the scientific community, civil society, private sector and the youth, an open process of the discussion of these national commitments was ensured. During preparing the NDC, at various stages, contributions to the drafting thereof were made by IRENA, GIZ, EBRD, the UK Government, the European Union, UNITAR, UNICEF, FAO, IFAD, and other UN agencies and international development partners.

To learn from this process for future updating processes, a **series of interviews** was conducted with diverse stakeholders from the State Committee on ecology and climate, the Inter-ministerial working group for NDC update, the Ministries of energy and mining, industries, of economy and finance and of Agriculture as well as the Climate Finance Center, UNDP, NGOs and donors about their views and experiences. A full overview of the interview results can be found in Annex 1.

Aspects that the interviewees **appreciated** about the process and would like to repeat in the next process were:

- Inter-ministerial Working Group that was established should continue;
- Series of workshops with the government;
- Open dialogues with international and local experts and international organizations about tools, data, methodology who all included all their knowledge;
- Consideration of all parties: municipalities, civil society, businesses, international organizations, and a joint path for discussion where everyone could speak, very important to combine all thoughts and concerns;
- Involvement of strong NGOs and civil society organizations as drivers of climate action.

Things they wished to be **changed** for the next process were the following:

- A more transparent, participatory, and well justified process with broader involvement of more stakeholders and their issues including the elaboration of the vision oriented by clear guideline with responsibilities for inputs of other ministries;
- A proper, transparently chosen and well explained methodology to identify proper goals for measures, which will be implemented based on and good and accessible data base and monitored by a reliable MRV system;



- A permanently responsible structure in government that steadily steers process, involves contact persons of other stake holders, Sectoral meetings to develop sectoral NDC implementation plans and a permanent platform, that meets every 6 months to discuss the effects, measures and ensures a constant exchange;
- More Practical cases from/exchange with other countries, more Media coverage to inform the public, more Involvement also from “below” (farmers etc.), more Country ownership, more Proximity between technical and decision-making level and more Time for development: “We need to start the NDC update process today.”

Challenges identified by the participants overlap with those identified by UNDP:

1. Data access;
2. Political crisis;
3. Setting up the institutional rearrangements;
4. Lack of time – process should start earlier;
5. Lack of expert capacity;
6. Covid-19 and remote mode of working;
7. NDC – a process not only stand-alone document (UNDP 2021).



4. An overview process model for NDC Updates

The Government of Kyrgyzstan would like to conduct NDC Updates in a country-driven, inclusive, and transparent way.

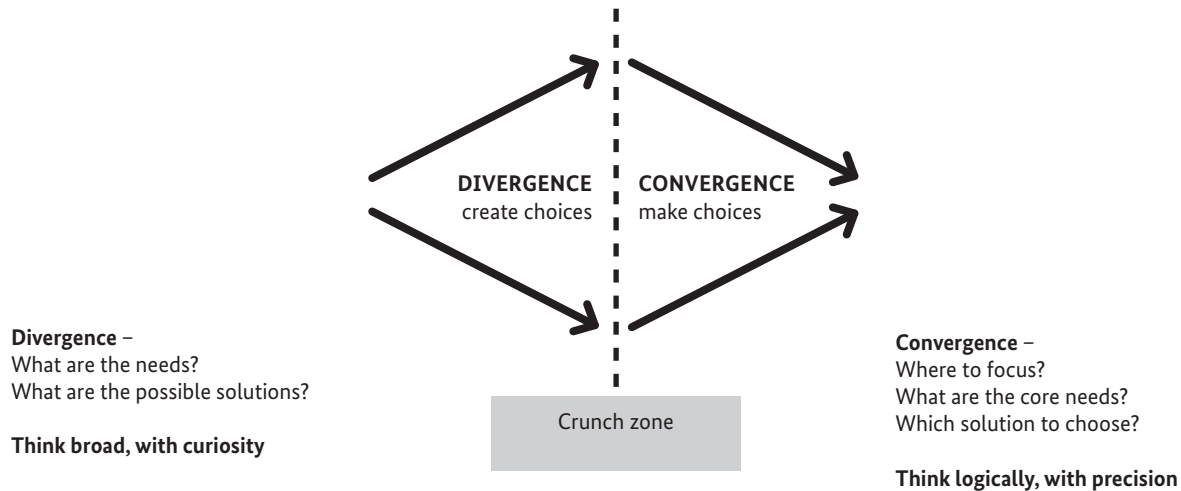
We propose to structure the NDC Update process on Divergence/Convergence Modell which is used widely in social innovation, Social Design and Design Thinking. It was developed in 1996 by Béla H. Bánáthy (Bánáthy 1996). It proposes to distinguish in complex problem solving between a divergence and convergence phase. Each of these phases need very different ways of thinking and cooperation.

In the **divergence phase**, the problem is being explored in a complex way, which also includes

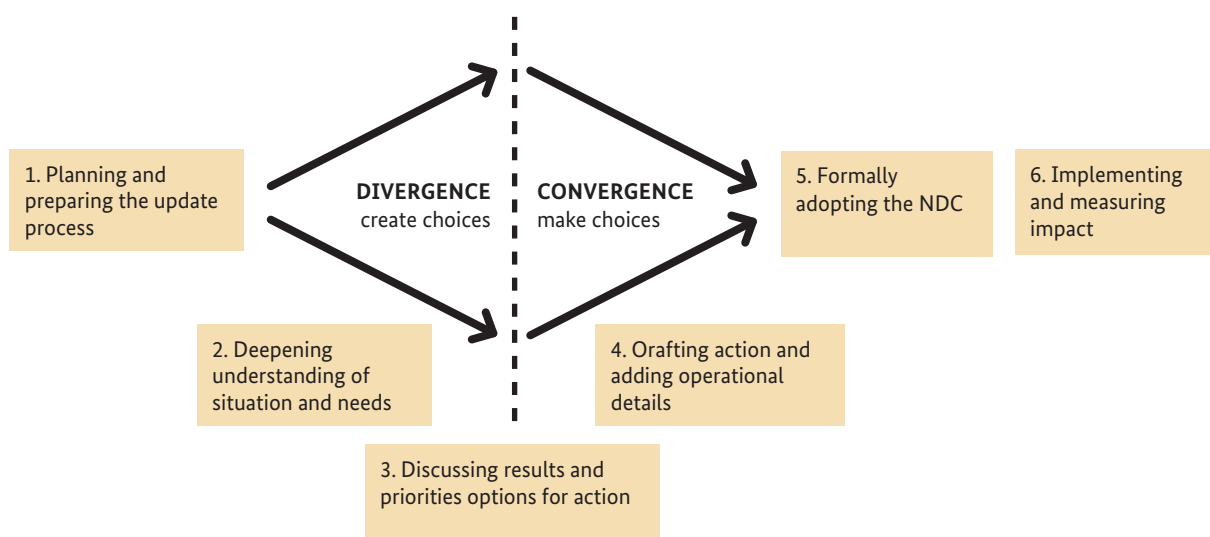
needs of different actors, experiences with past actions, possible solutions and existing problems. These are recorded, reflected, and collected in a joint setting, opening up to a quite large array of possible actions.

In the **convergence phase**, these action and possibilities are being boiled down to the ones that are really leading towards the joint goal. They are being put in a more concrete form, so that they become actionable. Details are being added, trials are carried out and specific features of the interplay of the options are being developed.

Scheme 1. The process – Thinking in divergence and convergence



Scheme 2. Phases of an NDC Update Process



We suggest using this model for structuring the future NDC Update process in Kyrgyzstan into the following phases:

Step 1

- ▶ Planning and preparing the update process.
- ▶ Setting up the base for a successful NDC Update process.

Step 2

- ▶ Deepening the understanding of the situation, needs and options.
- ▶ Gaining a joint overview on the situation in which the NDC is being developed and the options that exist for actions and priorities to be contained in the NDC.

Step 3

- ▶ Discussing results and priorities for action.
- ▶ Collecting a wide range of options from different stakeholders and sector, discuss and select/prioritise the most promising ones in line with the NDC vision and predefined criteria.

Step 4

- ▶ Adding details and drafting the NDC.
- ▶ Developing the elements developed in step 3 into a final product, having consultation and adding views.

Step 5

- ▶ Adopting the NDC formally.
- ▶ Ensuring the formal adoption both on international UNFCCC and national level and use this for awareness raising and learning.

Step 6

- ▶ Implementing, tracking progress and measuring of impact.
- ▶ Making sure that the NDC is put into action and the NDC Process is constantly being further developed.

The following section describes each of these steps, including core intention, elements, and possible formats.



5. Steps in future NDC development processes

5.1. PLANNING AND PREPARING THE UPDATE

OVERVIEW – STEP 1: Planning and preparing the NDC update process

OVERALL INTENTION OF THIS STEP: Setting up the base for a successful NDC Update process

KEY ELEMENTS OF THIS STEP:

CHECKLIST AT THE END OF THE STEP:

1. FURTHER DEVELOP THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE NDC PROCESS

- Confirmed list of relevant stakeholders that will contribute to NDC update process

2. DEFINE THE SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF THE UPDATE

- Document stating the agreed purpose of Kyrgyzstan's NDC process

3. PLAN THE INCLUSIVE UPDATE PROCESS

- Agreed roadmap with timeline and responsibilities distributed to stakeholders

4. ENSURE KEY CONTRIBUTIONS

- Analysis of obstacles to active integration and countermeasures in place

MAIN ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **NDC Core Team in Ministry of Environmental Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision:** Lead the process of identifying and organizing stakeholders (1), prepare suggestions for the purpose, organise discussion with high-level and Inter-ministerial Working Group (2), suggest, discuss, and organise governance system and roadmap (3), analyse what is needed to ensure active integration and organize necessary actions (4).
- **Inter-ministerial Working Group:** Organise participation from relevant sectoral actors (1), discuss purpose (2) and governance system (3), support engagement according to identified needs (4).
- **High-level group:** formally start update processes (1), decide about purpose of NDC update (2) and oversee installation of governance system (3).

FURTHER DEVELOP THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE NDC PROCESS

Before each update process, the institutional set-up for the NDC update process needs to be regularly adapted, based on learnings and institutional and political developments. It needs to integrate the entire spectrum of institutions involved (line ministries, agencies, other institutes, etc.) into the process and allow for efficient cooperation (e.g., see NDC-P 2020). It is also important to establish or

make use of the existing Knowledge management system should be put in place from the start to ensure access to information and data to all actors and that this system remains in place after the NDC process is completed. Since NDC updating process is new in the country, *the NDC Handover Checklist developed GIZ can be used to establish such a system.*

Building on the current situation, it is recommended that the institutional framework in Kyrgyzstan should contain the following elements:



- **NDC Core Team:** This team within the Ministry of Environmental Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision coordinates (as the UNFCCC/Paris Agreement Focal Point) the NDC Update and Coordination process constantly. It ensures an oriented, informed way forward and provide process guidance, clarity, and support. Staffing and responsibilities needs to be clarified. There needs to be enough knowledge, time and personal for the tasks at hand. It is recommended that it is staffed with 2-3 knowledgeable staff members who undergo international training (e.g., at GIZ, UNDP) for these tasks. They are the true base for a successful NDC Process, for linking the NDC to LTS and other processes and for ensuring a high technical and process quality of the work. They also ensure the continuity and coherence of the national climate change policy work (see also Chapter 7);
- **Inter-ministerial Working Group:** Climate change is a highly cross-cutting challenge that cannot effectively be tackled with the common way in siloed approaches. (For instance, in Germany the German climate cabinet, which is led by the Environment Ministry, brings together all ministries and gives them the task and responsibility to achieve sectoral climate targets in their field of responsibility). In Kyrgyzstan, this group on technical level, should comprise Focal Points in different sectoral ministries (e.g., division chiefs). It serves as a main coordinating body for cross-ministerial action and coordination. It should also have a good understanding of NDCs. It ought to meet throughout the process, every two months on fixed dates;
- **High-level Group:** This Group consists of Ministers or Permanent Secretaries from relevant ministries, including the Ministry of environment/Climate Change, Economy, Finance, and sectoral ministries (Energy, Agriculture, Infrastructure/Transport). It ensures an aligned start and endorsement throughout the planning and implementation process as well as political backup. It meets two to three times during the entire update process. There could also be political accountability mechanisms to make sure that sectors take their share in emission reduction and adaptation efforts (see Chapter 7).

We recommend that the Ministry of Environmental Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision starts this process by installing an **NDC core team**. Those can then, with the support of the ministry, approach the other ministries. Reaching out to the members of the high-level group should be done on a high level of the Ministry of Environmental Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision.

Usually, **awareness and understanding** of climate change, climate change policies and NDCs vary greatly across sectors and line ministries. To ensure qualified participation, trainings for a couple of key NDC knowledgeable people can greatly help.

In this context, **trustful cooperation and communication** needs can be supported, especially as there might be also partly competitive or conflictive relationships between some of the organizations involved (e.g., between implementing organizations or funding organizations, or possibly between government and civil society). Modelling a positive and inclusive cooperation, working together in an interactive and dialogic way, fostering personal contact, and helping to understand and acknowledge different perspectives and interests helps to build this culture.

The **technical and political level** of working on NDC's need to be closely interlinked and intertwined with policy discussions and decision-making building on the technical work and more technical activities taking policy decisions into account. Technical experts, who run the models and tools, for instance GHG calculations, are usually consultants and not permanent staff of government structures. It is crucial for the country to understand, how the technical part will be implemented and supported.

As of today, technical experts are contracted by the projects. But the government might consider that such functions might be the function of the academic circles, or the government institutions would be interested to build own capacity in this area. This need to be identified at early stage and a separate work process should be established. A division of labour needs to be considered, e.g., by having international firms and organisations (as in the last NDC Update UNIQUE and FAO in the livestock sector) doing GHG calculations and a local company responsible for data gathering and conducting the consultative process.



DEFINE THE SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF THE UPDATE

Beyond the requirements of the Paris Agreement, countries can decide themselves about the specific purpose they want to achieve with the NDC Update process internally. For instance, they can put a special focus on using this process for motivation of key actors, public awareness raising, institutional development or political concertation around climate change. The scope also needs to be adapted in view of new international developments and requirements from UNFCCC and COPs.

WRI¹ suggests the following questions to guide the definition of the country-specific purpose (WRI, page 26):

- Is the NDC driving effective action on climate change in a country and in what ways?
- Is greater funding being directed into climate action of specific sectors?
- Is the NDC effectively generating higher-level political support for climate action?
- Is climate change being mainstreamed into other development priorities, ministry policies (including for sectors and ministries such as finance and planning), and sectoral action in the country?
- Are the dimensions of climate change, involving both mitigation and adaptation, adequately reflected, including in specific sectors?

This country-specific focus needs to be decided early as it influences the following steps, formats, products, communication, and participants. For instance, a country that sees the NDCs as its primary climate strategy and derives all implementation actions from it, a main audience are domestic stakeholders who should be integrated actively throughout the process to ensure their buy-in. The focus needs to be agreed by the High-level group.

From a technical view, the time needed to analyze data and model the necessary policy option must be considered, possibly in the form of technical sub-process for each sector which feed into the overall process.

To make the process more focused, it is recommended to agree on the template for the NDC already at this early stage of the NDC updating process. Implementation of the Paris Agreement and a comprehensive national climate change policy requires **economic and social transformation**, based on the best available science. The Paris Agreement provides a framework for **financial, technical, and capacity building support**². The NDC template should consider these requirements and options to allow for an efficient and result-oriented way of approaching the development of the NDC. The template and structure would need to be agreed between the stakeholders. We recommend using Draft Discussion Paper “Approaches to developing new and updated NDC’s – Suggestions and experiences from countries and practitioners” (Harris, 2021) as a base for the development of the template.

PLAN THE INCLUSIVE UPDATE PROCESS

Based on this purpose, relevant stakeholders from civil society, private sector, academia, donors, and others need to be identified and included in the overall institutional mechanism. Active participation of vulnerable groups, youth, women, and others might require specific formats and settings. To ensure motivation and trust in the process, transparent decision-making mechanisms, and ways to influence them need to be selected and explained. Jointly elaborating a guide on participation of stakeholders could gather ideas and provide clarity. Therefore, the NDC Core Team should develop a roadmap draft with milestones, time frames, responsibilities, and requirements. For this elaboration learnings from the last update process can help in choosing what to keep and what to change from the last process. This draft should already contain suggestion for the monitoring of the process and be discussed in the Inter-ministerial Working Group. Sharing the

¹ https://files.wri.org/d8/s3fs-public/enhancing-ndcs_0.pdf

² <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>

finalized roadmap with all stakeholders allows them to prepare and organize their contributions. Regular updates on the process advancement help to keep stakeholders informed.

For inspiration on other countries' engagement processes, see WRI page 24 and following, e.g., box 5 containing examples from Ecuador, Colombia and Peru and the Marshall Islands.

BOX 1. NDC UPDATE KICK OFF WORKSHOP

We recommend organising an official workshop to kick off each new update process. Representatives from all relevant stakeholders of the future process are invited to:

- Be informed, if possible, interactively and in a relatable way, about recent facts regarding climate change and its impacts for Kyrgyzstan;
- Receive orientation on how the process is planned;
- Discuss the roadmap, roles, and responsibilities;
- Express their ideas and wishes regarding the process.

Results will inform an eventual adaptation or specification of the roadmap, which in its final version will be shared with the stakeholders to orient their contributions.

ENSURE KEY CONTRIBUTIONS AND KNOWLEDGE/ DATA MANAGEMENT

Technical and scientific data is important to ensure effective NDC Implementation planning and to monitor progress, with GHG Inventory and models used as well as macro-economic and sector statistical data being available for all (future) Users. To allow for helpful cooperation agreements with science, the requirements for usable need to be defined and specified early on, accessible, understandable, and usable and give sufficient background on methodological or other backgrounds and (peer) reviews. This is an opportunity to work with and strengthen national and regional universities.

Experiences with previous studies should be evaluated and contracts contain the clause that all data is provided to the NDC Core Unit and open for their and eventually public use. Twinning and partnership arrangements with international organizations and institutions can help to foster systemic Capacity Development.

As collection of data is not a one-of all, but a data/ Knowledge management system for climate relevant action needs to be jointly developed and updated for each update round. The knowledge management system should collect, store and disseminate all

relevant information and data to the stakeholders. It needs to be put in place from the start to ensure access to information and data to all actors and that this system remains in place after the NDC process is completed. An option would be to store data at the National Statistical Committee, where mechanisms to access and administer the data could be developed. Macro-economic data, statistics and scenarios could be stored in the Ministry of Economy and should be accessible to partners in the process.

Ensuring successful cooperation also refers to cooperation agreements with donor agencies and eventual support structures such as the NDC-Partnership. The NDC-P, for example, has a NDC Partnership Action Fund, that countries can receive for to support the funding needed for their process. In addition, the contributions of the agencies should be specified, and the way of cooperation should be defined.

There should be transparent tender processes for **consultants and agencies** involved in the process.

*For the **2022 NDC Enhancement** we recommend focusing on “enhancing participation” in the NDC Update Process. For the **2025 NDC Update** we recommend working on all these elements.*



5.2. DEEPENING UNDERSTANDING OF SITUATION, NEEDS AND OPTIONS

OVERVIEW – STEP 2: Deepening understanding of situation (economic, social situation, what are the climate risks and vulnerabilities), needs (needs for mitigation and adaptation, climate resilient and low emission development, capacity building, technology transfer, just transition, data availability and improvements, research and analysis) and options (strategies and measures)

OVERALL INTENTION OF THIS STEP: Gaining a joint overview on the situation in which the NDC Is being developed and the options that exist for actions and priorities to be contained in the NDC

KEY ELEMENTS OF ACTION IN THIS STEP:	CHECKLIST AT THE END OF THE STEP:
1. TAKING A WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY APPROACH BY EXTENSIVE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of thoughts and needs from stakeholder meetings, in a 10-20 pages report accompanied by video testimonials, distributed to inter-ministerial working group and made available to public
2. SCIENTIFIC STUDIES IN SECTORS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority list for sectoral action provided by relevant ministries (each 5-10 pages)
3. SCOUT INTERNATIONALLY FOR OPTIONS AND NEEDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5-10 International best-practices relevant for Kyrgyzstan
4. UNDERSTANDING NEEDS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private sector needs summarized after private sector roundtable

MAIN ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- NDC Core Team in Ministry of Environmental Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision:** Overall support and guidance, coordination of stakeholder consultation (1) and scouting for experiences (3);
- Ministry of Economy:** Dialogue with private sector (4), Support to stakeholder consultations (1);
- Ministry of Finance:** Calculating financial gaps;
- Sectoral ministries:** Coordination of sectoral studies and prioritisation (2);
- Inter-ministerial Working Group:** Meeting every two months for discussion of (preliminary) results and guidance.

TAKING A WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY APPROACH BY EXTENSIVE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Bringing a lot of perspectives into the NDC process is recognized internationally as a key factor for NDC success. It needs to be a base for an inclusive approach as the Government of Kyrgyzstan intends to take it:

- Being in close contact with stakeholders allows to zoom in and check for possibilities for action.

The NDC is meant to address the needs of the people in the countries it is needed to build on successful actions. These can only be found out by conversation with these people.

- Dealing with climate change is a complex topic. It is not possible for a small group to be able to see all possible ways of action.
- People who are included in the exploration and decision making are more likely to be motivated



in the action afterwards and can motivate each other.

- Concerns can be addressed throughout the process and do not appear at the end, where they hinder implementation
- Bringing together different people from diverse backgrounds inspires new solutions and provides a reality/feasibility check for ideas
- Can ensure streamlining with other goals e.g., strengthening women and youth, if they are in the group and can bring ideas that benefit them, societal goals can be reached at the same time.

A stakeholder engagement plan needs to outline how and how often the stakeholders can be engaged. This also involves a consistent approach to communicate with the public at national and regional levels. Information about the process needs to be spread widely in national media, including social media.

In this context, stakeholders include groups of public and private sectors, civil society and academic as well as youth, women and marginalized groups, NGOs. Meeting them and co-designing action with them on the ground is the base for successful discussion with these stakeholders.

BOX 2. CLIMATE CHANGE CONVERSATIONS

We recommend running a series of climate change conversation in municipalities and communities throughout the country that follow a consistent three-step-approach:

- People share experiences with climate change and its effects;
- Facilitators share few facts on future climate change impacts;
- All discuss options to deal with climate change and needs expressed.

These conversations could be run in different municipalities in the country e.g., in town halls by open invitation. Results could be captured by written documentation, graphic recordings, or videos. Which could be used in the next steps. Harvesting should be done with a standardized harvesting sheet so that the results can be better compiled.

SCIENTIFIC STUDIES IN SECTORS

In this phase, studies in specific sectors analyse potential actions and their potentials to reduce emissions and to contribute to adaptation to climate change. These studies build on the data that exist already and deepen it where necessary. Most information needs focus on emission reductions or adaptation needs and cost-effectiveness. The results are presented and discussed in the relevant sectoral ministries, which compile a short-list of the most promising high-priority actions and their emission potential. They should also analyse and compile key results from existing documents and strategies.

Terms of reference for these studies need to be as specific as possible in making sure that data relevant for decision making are being produced. Regarding the content and specific questions and focus areas for calculations, WRI³ 2019, 29ff, give important suggestions on Mitigation and WRI 2019, 45ff on the adaptation to climate change component. Scientific studies can also inform the way the ambition level can increase with each update.

It needs to be considered that data acquisition, analysis and deriving of well-founded options takes a lot of time and resources. It needs to be based on agreed common emission models and needs to be coordinated. It has been learned in other countries

³ https://files.wri.org/d8/s3fs-public/enhancing-ndcs_0.pdf

that there needs to be an early agreement between different national and international partners concerning the way the data should be prepared for the final product of the NDCs before going into the sectorial studies. It is crucial to invest sufficiently in this before going into the sectorial studies.

We recommend that the technical and political process for NDC preparation within the different sectors do not focus primarily on separate climate-change targeted activities but seek evaluate the current options for policies in these sectors from a climate-change perspectives. The aim of this activity would be to select those which both advance the sectoral policies in this sector and contribute to emission reduction and adaptation to climate change – and where possible to top these up with specific action to address climate needs. The studies should focus on knowledge gaps with this regard. They should rather specify and evaluate scenarios as bundles of activities from a climate change perspective.

SCOUT INTERNATIONALLY FOR OPTIONS AND NEEDS

Many solutions to deal with climate change exist worldwide. We recommend establishing a small group of NDC Scouts, for instance committed young people. They attend international conferences, e.g., COPs and regional NDC-P workshop. Their special role is to find inspiration, which successful actions other countries takes, both on a very practical note and on a policy level. They bring these possibilities with them and feed them into the country process. They also screen NDCs from other countries for their quantitative contributions to climate change reduction and the needs that are communicated by science or (in the future) in the Global Stocktake Reports that will be developed by UNFCCC. These reports compile and sum up NDCs from all countries about the emission reductions they can achieve.

UNDERSTANDING NEEDS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

The contribution of the private sector to fighting climate change plays a special role in this phase. We recommend that the Ministry of Economy invites private sector representatives, including from micro, small and medium enterprises to conversations around their interests around investing in climate-friendly or climate change adapted technologies and the constraints they currently face for that. The results should be compiled in a concise report. Alternatively, there could be a private sector conference on climate change which serves to identify their needs.

*For the **2022 NDC Enhancement** we recommend focusing on the Stakeholder consultations in the regions e.g., in climate change conversations, and the contact with the private sector. Sectoral studies were carried out extensively in the 2021 update and should only be completed where necessary. For the **2025 NDC Update** we recommend working on all of these elements.*



5.3. DISCUSSING RESULTS AND PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

OVERVIEW – STEP 3: Discussing results and priorities for action

OVERALL INTENTION OF THIS STEP: Overall intention of this step: Collecting a wide range of options from different stakeholders and sectors, discuss and select/prioritize the most promising ones in line with the NDC vision and predefined criteria

KEY ELEMENTS OF ACTION IN THIS STEP:

CHECKLIST AT THE END OF THE STEP:

1. FORMULATING A ROBUST AND MOTIVATING VISION IN LINE WITH NATIONAL STRATEGIES

- Shared vision approved by high-level group

2. COLLECT AND DISCUSS OPTIONS, MEASURES, AND POLICIES

- Menu/Range of mitigation and adaptation options from different sectors and formats combined on a publicly accessible platform leading to reduction goals per sector

3. PRIORITIZATION

- Feasible number of actions prioritised according to agreed criteria indicated to interested public

4. DEVELOP NDC DOCUMENT STRUCTURE

- NDC structure approved by high-level group

MAIN ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **NDC Core Team in Ministry of Environmental Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision:** Assessment of relevant existing policies and facilitation of vision formulation (1), steer collection (2) and prioritisation process (3), suggest and discuss NDC structure (4);
- **Inter-ministerial Working Group:** Participate actively and bring in sectoral expertise into vision formulating process (1), plan collection of ideas (2), jointly formulate selection and prioritisation criteria (3), discuss NDC structure (4);
- **High-level group:** Approve vision (1), selection criteria and selection (3) and NDC structure (4);
- **Sectoral ministries:** Organize collection of ideas in sector or with target group (e.g. farmers, women, youth) (2), provide sectoral expertise where needed (3);
- **Ministry of Economy/Ministry of Finance:** Calculate costs (2,3).

FORMULATING A ROBUST AND MOTIVATING VISION IN LINE WITH NATIONAL STRATEGIES

On the base of the previous steps, now an overarching vision for climate resilient development with low green-house gas emissions can be elaborated. As a guiding star, it guides, orientates, and motivates the process and its implementation. It must be easy to understand and tangible, not too technical, and, if possible, spark enthusiasm and motivation with a vision of the future that people can relate to and engage for. Such a vision could be a narrative how within 10 years, the country could go

a big step toward low carbon development and at the time build a bright future for its people.

The vision is more powerful if it links the development of the country with climate change, in the direction of building a brighter climate-resilient and green future for the country – for the benefit of Kyrgyzstan. This notion of climate change efforts embedded in a national policy vision would build a strong momentum to back this vision with climate-related objectives, e.g., in terms of emission reductions.

To align this vision with existing long-term national strategies and other relevant processes, a thorough assessment of relevant existing policies could be conducted and verified among the high-level and Inter-ministerial working group. These should also be involved in the process of formulating the vision for Kyrgyzstan's NDC.

A pre-vision could be agreed already before the scientific studies. After its results it can be checked, refined, corrected. This vision needs to be based in in-depth analysis, ideally stemming from a LTS (long-terms strategy), where key milestones of an LTS can serve as goals of a sequence of NDC's. In the visioning process there could be also a discussion on, for instance, whether to work with a high reduction scenario and prioritize on this or a focus on adaptation where mitigation targets are pursued where possible.

COLLECT AND DISCUSS OPTIONS, MEASURES, AND POLICIES

The options that exist for action need to be put on a table, before narrowing it down and, converging. This needs to happen on the right level of generalisation to not those involved in the process. This implies ample participation of the diverse stakeholder groups to introduce their ideas on

adaptation and mitigation actions, allowing a special role to youth who are the ones living longest with the effects of today's decisions. The different ideas can be collected via different kinds of formats, be it sectoral working groups, focus group meetings or publicly open online platforms. Creative formats (e.g., a citizens' assembly as described in the box below) can foster creativity and produce innovative ideas from all sectors and levels. These lead to reduction goals per Sector.

In this sub-step, the discussion of different modelled scenarios will play a central role. To be the base for political decisions, the scientific studies must be translated into policy options with arguments in *favor* and *against* them. It needs to be based on a process that decides upon the scenarios from the different sectors and integrating them into an overall pathway from the country. In all these considerations, the LTS, thought as the business model for the country, should serve as the most central and important guiding star.

The active involvement of representatives of the government/ministries during the presentation and discussion of the proposed options deepens understanding and increases knowledge of the different levels of action. Small working groups of participants from different levels can be eye-opening and inspire new solutions.

BOX 3. NATIONAL CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY ON CLIMATE ACTION

The format of national citizen assembly is an interesting format for debating on the country's climate action.

Participants are chosen among society according to prior agreed criteria like age, gender, place of residence. These ensure to include a broad variety of people with different view and experiences.

They are officially invited to participate over a certain period in a process on, in this case, climate change action. During this time, they are informed by diverse experts on relevant climate change topics before discussing internally and elaborating conclusions they as a group agreed on.

These are then introduced into the corresponding political processes, here handed over to the NDC core team.

More information can be found here:

- <https://www.climateassembly.uk/about/citizens-assemblies/>
- <https://www.local.gov.uk/topics/devolution/devolution-online-hub/public-service-reform-tools/engaging-citizens-devolution-3>
- <https://www.citizensassembly.scot>

PRIORITIZATION

Several methodologies can be used to select and prioritise action. The most important requirement for all of them is transparency, to ensure trust of the stakeholders and accountability for all interested parties. The prioritisation process should start with clustering and if suitable combination of similar options. Sector experts need to be involved in a next step to eliminate unfeasible options and provide orientation about specificities of each measure. When using a multi-criteria-analysis, the criteria should be agreed jointly and explicitly before evaluating each option. Criteria often include costs, effectiveness, cost-efficiency, co-benefits (environmental, economic, or social) and can be enlarged to include a focus on specific topics such as benefits for women, youth, or other chosen groups. Local, and if needed regional or international scientists and experts can support this process and assist in the identification of eventual action gaps. The inclusion of donor organization could already give guidance on possible financing support options.

Making this process openly accessible e.g., on a webpage and broadcasting discussion about certain decisions ensures transparency and allows the public and stakeholders to follow and in the best case start a dialogue process in society.

One approach used in this step could be the PESTLE framework, which comprises Political, Economic (and financial), Social, Technological, Legal (and institutional), Environmental (aligned with nature-based solutions) criteria.

DEVELOP NDC DOCUMENT STRUCTURE

Influenced by the agreed purpose (step 1), the structure of the NDC can be different. From the UNFCCC Requirement perspective, the NDC needs to contain “information necessary for clarity, transparency, and understanding”, called ICTU (see Chapter 2 and Annex 2).

According to Harris 2020, Common formats for the ICTU are:

- tabular format, like Singapore⁴;
- simple text format, e.g. bullet points; or
- continuous text or narrative format.

ICTU can be appended as an Annex or incorporated as an individual, clearly labelled Chapter (see Chile’s⁵ NDC Chapter 8); or it could be integrated throughout the NDC document and preferentially replicated in a separate section or Annex for ease of reference.

Other than that, the country can decide freely how to organize its NDC structure to best suit its national purpose. Purposes can include, as described in Chapter 2, the establishment or strengthening of institutional cooperation for dealing with climate change, the attraction of funding, a motivation and orient for institutions regarding climate action or to reflect the country’s development path in times of climate change. Additional information a country can voluntarily encompass might be an overview of a countries main strategic approach to addressing climate change as well as the progress so far, identified mitigation co-benefits resulting from planed adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans. It might be easiest to build the structure on the structure of the last NDC.

*For the **2022 NDC Enhancement** we recommend focusing on the collection and prioritisation of measures and policies to a joint enrichment of existing ones and therefore invest the time in the elaboration of an inspiring and motivating vision as well as an agreed structure of the NDC update document. For the **2025 NDC Update** we recommend working on all these elements.*

⁴ <https://unfccc.int/NDCREG>

⁵ [https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Chile First/Chile%27s_NDC_2020_english.pdf](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Chile%20First/Chile%27s_NDC_2020_english.pdf)

5.4. ADDING DETAILS AND DRAFTING THE NDC

OVERVIEW – STEP 4: Adding details and drafting the NDC

OVERALL INTENTION OF THIS STEP: Developing the elements developed in step 3 into a final product, having consultation and adding views

KEY ELEMENTS OF ACTION IN THIS STEP:	CHECKLIST AT THE END OF THE STEP:
1. DEVELOPING AMBITIOUS MEASURES AND KEY ACTION ITEMS	■ Measures and sector-wide emission targets formulated
2. REVIEWING AVAILABLE FINANCING MECHANISMS AND MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION	■ Financing outline for NDC being presented to the inter-ministerial working group
3. DRAFTING THE NDC TEXT, INCLUDING ICTU	■ Draft NDC text presented to the inter-ministerial working group for comments
4. CONSULTATION ON THE TEXT	■ Agreed version of the finalized text

MAIN ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **NDC Core Team in Ministry of Environmental Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision:** Supporting sector ministries in developing measures and key action items, reviewing financing mechanism together with Ministry of Economy, coordination for consultation process (4), Drafting the text (3);
- **Ministry of Economy/Ministry of Finance:** Supporting calculation and costing (2);
- **Sectoral ministries:** Support developing of ambitious measures (1);
- **Inter-ministerial Working Group:** Meeting every two months, Updates, Commenting the text.

DEVELOPING AMBITIOUS MEASURES AND KEY ACTION ITEMS

At this point, policy packages and measures supporting the NDC should be formulated in a way that shows by which means and to which extent the emission reduction targets in the NDC are meant to be met, in a both feasible and ambitious way. Sectoral decisions should be clear at that point and the different bits and pieces that have been developed can be brought together. In this context it is important to stay within the doable but be as ambitious as possible. It is recommended that specialists from sectors also add rough numbers of costing that can be included in the NDC.

At this stage action must also be cross-referenced from other national planning documents such as low emission development strategy (LEDS); mid-term development plans. The NDC Core teams need to make sure that the way the measures are described is coherent and easy to understand and that ambition is being increased with each NDC Update.

Emission reduction potentials need to be cross-calculated to make sure that the overall emission reduction target can be reached. This step is carried out in close cooperation with the relevant sectors. This also includes action with the Private sector and linking NDC Content into political strategies, including long-term planning.



REVIEWING AVAILABLE FINANCING MECHANISMS AND MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Based on this (preliminary) measures and numbers, a costing for the implementation of the NDC should be developed. We recommend developing an overview on which of these options are already included in the national budget, which additional measure can be funded nationally and for which options international financing option exist or can be assured. This overview needs to be developed together with the Ministry of Finance. This overview should also include a summary of which options are bankable and can be developed into a proposal. This information could also form the base for a means-of-implementation Chapter in the NDC. It also includes to raising the countries awareness of available funding mechanisms and capacity to develop proposals to access additional funding.

- Any detailed technical changes that may affect how the impact of the NDC is calculated. For example, a change to a different emissions base year or a change to the BAU baseline. Some of this information should be covered by biennial update reports to be submitted every two years from 2024 or will be covered in the ICTU section of the NDC, so not too much details will be needed here.
- Other significant changes, e.g., to the scope of the NDC or additional topics that are now included. For example, if the first NDC did not include adaptation targets and measures, but the updated NDC does, this information could be included. Likewise, with the addition of SDGs, gender-related considerations, etc. Changes should include a summary of reasons for inclusion, if applicable.

DRAFTING THE NDC TEXT, INCLUDING ICTU

The information gained at this point is being drafted into a core NDC Text by the NDC Core Team, whose competences could be built to be able to do this.

The Paris Agreement requires each successive NDC to represent a 'progression' beyond the previous NDC (Article 4(3) of the Paris Agreement) and to reflect the 'highest possible ambition'. The information needed to assess whether it satisfies these criteria will be contained within the ICTU. An orientation regarding this required information can be found on pages 59-63 of the WRI Guide.⁶ However, succinctly summarising in one place the key differences between the revised NDC and the previous one may help to make the NDC more accessible. Countries might, for example, choose to include a summary box at the front of their document with some or all of the following information (Harris 2020):

- Significant changes, for example strengthening of targets or addition of targets, change of scope of any targets (e.g., covering more sectors, more gases); New policies; New institutional structures or processes (including MRV systems).

CONSULTATION ON THE TEXT

It is recommended that a consultation process is carried out on the NDC Text. This can be done through an online consultation, i.e., by seeking comments of the pre-final text format: Stakeholders which have been part of the process as well as other interested bodies and institution can provide their views on the process. However, this is a time-consuming process.

*For the **2022 NDC Enhancement Update** we recommend focusing on reviewing the available financing mechanisms and developing a strong financing backbone for the NDC. For the **2025 NDC Update** we recommend working on all these elements.*

⁶ https://files.wri.org/d8/s3fs-public/enhancing-ndcs_0.pdf

5.5. ADOPTING THE NDC FORMALLY

OVERVIEW – STEP 5: Adopting the NDC formally

OVERALL INTENTION OF THIS STEP: Ensuring the formal adoption both on international UNFCCC and national level and use this for awareness raising and learning

KEY ELEMENTS OF ACTION IN THIS STEP:	CHECKLIST AT THE END OF THE STEP:
1. FORMAL ADOPTION AND HIGH-LEVEL ENDORSEMENT	■ Written high-level endorsement included in NDC document
2. SUBMISSION TO UNFCCC	■ Elaborated NDC document published and accessible on UNFCCC website
3. CELEBRATE AND BUILD AWARENESS	■ Media campaigns launched and/or journalists invited to NDC presentation event
4. HARVEST AND CAPTURE LEARNINGS	■ Summary of lessons learned, checklist filled in comprehensively and data stored securely

MAIN ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **NDC Core Team in Ministry of Environmental Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision:** Organize high-level endorsement (1), submit final document to UNFCCC (2) and coordinate awareness raising and learning (3 and 4);
- **Inter-ministerial Working Group:** Support high-level endorsement (1), contribute to awareness raising and learning in and from sector (3 and 4);
- **High-level group:** Officially support endorsement (1).

FORMAL ADOPTION AND HIGH-LEVEL ENDORSEMENT

The weight and nationwide acceptance are increased if it is not only formally accepted but includes obvious high-level political buy-in. This also facilitates the following implementation. Therefore the final decision and formal adoption of the NDC and its mitigation targets and actions should be taken by Parliament or the cabinet, based on the recommendation elaborated throughout the process. We recommend including a description of the process when introducing the suggestion to the formal adoption to ensure understanding on the source of these recommendations.

High-level endorsement can then be included in the NDC in two main ways: a) as a foreword of the head of state or senior politician or b) by including a brief section naming the key stakeholders (e.g., head of state and key ministers, important representatives from civil society and private sector etc.) that endorse and support the document and its actions.

SUBMISSION TO UNFCCC

To formalize an NDC in the eyes of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, it needs to be **officially submitted**⁷ by the national UNFCCC focal point. With a UNFCCC user account, the relevant documents can be uploaded on the NDC

⁷ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Submission%20Procedures%20of%20NDCs_02122021.pdf

registry, where after a consistency check they will be published on the UNFCCC's website. We recommend entrusting the head of the NDC core team with this important task. The submission can be accompanied by an official presentation, a press conference or even the national event (see action below).

CELEBRATE AND BUILD AWARENESS

This is a moment to celebrate and acknowledge all the effort all stakeholders have contributed to the advancement of the process and joint elaboration of an important strategic document. We recommend organizing a national event to present your work and deepen awareness with involved institutions. If a citizens' assembly has been conducted, representatives of those should be included.

Even specific measures can be presented by sectoral ministries and implementing organisations. This is also an important moment to integrate media to ensure coverage and awareness raising among the public. The use of concrete examples helps to make climate action more tangible and relatable.

HARVEST AND CAPTURE LEARNINGS

Taking the time to harvest and capture relevant learnings systematically at appropriate points of time lays the foundation for improvements in the following NDC update processes.

We recommend that the NDC Team together with the Inter-ministerial Working Group captures what has been done and how as a base for the next process. Especially in case of high turnover of staff and thus limited institutional memory, this step is primordial to protect the knowledge and experience gained.

We recommend that the NDC core team fills in this **handover-checklist of the Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement**⁸ to capture all relevant information.

The NDC core team should also collect all relevant data, studies, terms of reference and other important documents and make sure they are stored securely and easy to find again for the next process.

Having organized the process in a participatory way, we suggest using the opportunity to collect experiences and learnings once again from the stakeholders involved in a lessons learned workshop organized by the NDC core team and ponder jointly which aspects of the process you want to keep and which ones to change.

BOX 4. LESSONS LEARNED WORKSHOP

We recommend organising a lessons learned workshop after every update process to reflect on the conducted process, including:

- What went well? Which tools/formats/process steps do we want to keep and use again in the next process?
- What failed? What do we want to do differently next time?
- Was something important missing? How can it be included?
- How would an ideal next process look like?

This workshop should include representatives of all relevant stakeholder groups. A trustful atmosphere is important for participants to openly share their experiences and suggestions for improvement. Agreeing on discretion and, if necessary, having external moderation can help ensuring the necessary setting. After the workshop it should be made transparent how the results of the workshops are used.

⁸ <https://transparency-partnership.net/publications-tools/ndc-handover-checklist>

*For the **2022 NDC Enhancement** we recommend setting the media campaign in a broader context of climate change and climate change action in Kyrgyzstan, maybe present relevant institutions and actors and accompany rather the 2025 update process more in depth. Within the learning process after the 2022 enhancement process, experiences and lessons learned from the 2021 and 2022 process can be compared to combine the best aspects of both processes. For the **2025 NDC Update** we recommend working on all these elements.*



5.6. IMPLEMENTING, TRACKING PROGRESS, AND MEASURING IMPACT

OVERVIEW – STEP 6: Implementing, tracking progress, and measuring impact

OVERALL INTENTION OF THIS STEP: Making sure that the NDC is put into action and the NDC Process is constantly being further developed

KEY ELEMENTS OF ACTION IN THIS STEP:

CHECKLIST AT THE END OF THE STEP:

1. DEVELOPING STRONG IMPLEMENTATION ACTION PLANS

- Action plans for 5 key sectors developed

2. IMPLEMENTING ACTION PLANS AND KEEP MOTIVATION UP

- Regular updates on action by sectors in Inter-ministerial working group

3. ENSURING MONITORING AND EVALUATION/ MRV

- MRV system developed and yearly reports available

4. ENSURING COORDINATION AND JOINT LEARNING

- Yearly learning event

MAIN ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **NDC Core Team in Ministry of Environmental Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision:** Support sector ministries in (1) and (2), Coordinate efforts in (3) And (4);
- **Sectoral ministries:** In charge of (1) and (2);
- **Inter-ministerial Working Group:** Meets every three months to monitor progress.

DEVELOPING STRONG IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

After adoption NDCs need to be developed further into Implementation (or Action) plans. These action plans include action on a policy level and other levels meant unlock available finance, put things into organisable items and make it easier for international donors to mobilize resources. Hristova (2020) contains thinking on the process for an implementation plans for Kyrgyzstan. We suggest focusing on sectoral implementation plans for key mitigation and adaptation sectors and developing strategies and measures for attracting private sector funding.

These implementation plans are also the base for discussions with the development partners on implementation of the action. They should include time frame, lead implementing agency in the government, estimated emission reduction. They should be communicated to NDC Partnership for support in attracting donor funding.

IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS AND KEEPING MOTIVATION UP

After formulation, the activities contained in the implementation plans are put into action. A key challenge is that climate action often takes a back seat to short-term economic considerations and action is not as ambitious and consistent as planned on the onset. We recommend acting as quickly as possible in order to learn fast with a lot of experience. For many larger scale activities can start quickly with prototypes and experiments.

It is recommended that the NDC Core team in Ministry of Environmental Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision finds mechanisms to re-motivate the actors that are working towards this, e.g., by setting sectoral champions awards, securing the commitment of the highest political level and engaging media campaign.



TRACKING PROGRESS, ENSURING MONITORING AND EVALUATION/MRV

According to the UNFCCC requirements countries need to monitor their NDC action to UNFCCC as part of the Agreement's "enhanced transparency framework", for international expert review. The monitoring should not only concentrate on MRV and M&E as demanded by the Paris Agreement, but should embed it into a larger SDG monitoring.

It is recommended that a detailed MRV system is being designed for Kyrgyzstan, with a methodology that is both accurate and adapted to the country circumstances. It needs to ensure that different perspectives are brought in, and various stakeholders participate in the process. It should include both quantitative and qualitative approaches and indicators. There is a wealth of experiences for building up national MRV Systems for climate-related action. We would recommend

including specialist support for designing the MRV System through an implanting organisation. Possibly, NDC Partnership could support the funding of this through the NDC Partnership Action Fund.

ENSURING COORDINATION AND JOINT LEARNING

There is a need for constant coordination and learning on climate change – and a high potential in that. Also, outside NDC Update processes, it is recommended that the Inter-Ministerial climate change council meets every three months to look at recent learnings, to provide guidance and to reflect.

Supporting a national coordination mechanism which ensures effectiveness and efficiency while avoiding overlaps in the NDC enhancement or implementation process.

BOX 5. NATIONAL CLIMATE LAB

We recommend organising yearly national climate lab, which focus on the following questions:

- What have all of us learned about climate change action?
- What new in the world? What is new in our country?
- What are climate change champions who have spearheaded actions?

About 100 people from different groups of society could come together including representatives from different stakeholder groups. There could be government agencies representatives, private sector representatives, vulnerable and marginalized groups. These events could be accompanied by wide media coverage. It could build on citizen Assembly approach (see step 3).

Step 6 naturally melts into step 1.

For the 2022 NDC Enhancement we recommend focussing on the further development of action plans and to have an NDC learning lab. For the 2025 NDC Update we recommend working on all elements.



6. Recommendations for immediate action

In order to allow for a country owned NDC process and climate change policy we recommend the following items for immediate action:

(1) NDC Core Team as Coordinating Unit.

A key prerequisite for a country-owned NDC Process is a strong NDC and National Climate Change Policy Team (see 6.1) to coordinate, drive forward and technically oversee all climate-change policy related activities including the development (and tracking progress) of NDC's and LTS. This NDC Team should either be placed in the UNFCCC Focal point structure (i.e., the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Climate Change) or in a superior executing body such as the Cabinet of Ministers (President Administration). It needs to be staffed well enough (minimum 2-3 people), with staff with excellent communication skills, who is motivated to make a difference, speak English, and ideally have a knowledgeable about climate change policy, public administration, and the technical aspects of climate change. They could undergo in international training to extend their skills. As these would be key coordination positions, an adequate salary needs to ensure so that their staff turnover is limited, the possibility of maintaining institutional capacity is guaranteed regardless of changes in the political situation in the country. Possibly an international expert could be placed in these units to support. Additionally, the NDC Partnership Unit could also finance a NDC Facilitator to be placed in this Unit. One of the tasks of this core team (or one of its scientific partners) would be to establish a data management and storage system.

(2) Climate Change Policy Champion.

Whereas the NDC Core Team would rather work on at technical and process level, a country owned NDC press also needs political leadership. We recommend creating the position of a special Climate Change Envoy or Designated State Secretary of the Government, who would be the national and international voice for Kyrgyzstan climate change efforts. This person should be able to translate climate change policy into tangible messages, ensure support and action form sectoral ministries and be Kyrgyzstan's face on the international climate change stage and stand for the coherence of LTS, NDC, NAP and other climate change policy efforts. Many countries have collected positive experiences with sort of positions. They should be formally anchored and staffed with a suitable personality of integrity. This person should be supported e.g., by leadership trainings and coaching.



(3) Establish Institutional Framework.

The institutional framework as described in section 6.1 takes time to be set up and established. It includes string well-informed sectoral focal points, a good link to superior executing bodies, such as the Presidency, as well as the High-Level group (see 6.1). As the clarification of institutional issues usually takes a lot of time, we would recommend continuing the further refinement of this framework right now, by drafting task descriptions and terms of the organisational entities outlined in unit 6.1. This would also include to develop a framework for sectoral responsibility and accountability, e.g., sectoral emission reduction targets that sectoral ministers and minsters would be accountable to or National Climate Change Council.

(4) Secure Funding for NDC Update Process.

An NDC Update process is costly. The costs depend on the degree of consultation. Participation and technical rigour envisaged. True country ownership would mean that his funding is administered by the Kyrgyzstan authorities and not all support would be handled through Implementing partners. The Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision should think about how this funding is secured and how it is administered. If Kyrgyzstan wants to go for a more country owned NDC process costs will be higher than in 2021 as country ownership includes more participation and consultation. However, these costs are quite limited compared to the costs of inaction or inadequate action.

(5) Include and build process expertise.

Process experience is about how to coordinate a process politically and technically like NDC and related processes. This expertise currently does not exist in the country and need to be build up. One option would be to place an organisational or process advisor in the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision or to ensure another kind of ongoing support. Additionally national capacities should be strengthened by capacity development measures. There should be enough time and efforts spent for a proper process planning (which would also include budgeting) before the 2025 NDC Update process



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WRI Enhancing NDCs: A Guide to Strengthening National Climate Plans by 2020 – see https://files.wri.org/d8/s3fs-public/enhancing-ndcs_0.pdf

Recommended further readings

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NDC Partnership 2021: DEVELOPING GENDER-RESPONSIVE NDC ACTION PLANS - A PRACTICAL GUIDE – see https://ndcpartnership.org/sites/default/files/Gender_Responsive_NDC_Action_Plans_Practical_Guide-March-2021.pdf

NDC Partnership 2021: Greening a Country - Armenia's Path Forward in an Uncertain Climate – see https://ndcpartnership.org/sites/default/files/Country_Brief-Greening_a_Country_Armenias_Path_Forward_in_an_Uncertain_Climate-February_2021.pdf

NDC Partnership's Knowledge Portal including tools e.g. for finance, facts on the link of NDCs and SDGs and many more – see <https://ndcpartnership.org/knowledge-portal>

OECD DAC: External Development Finance Statistics including bilateral and multilateral climate finance – see <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-topics/climate-change.htm>

UNFCCC Climate Finance Data Portal – see <https://unfccc.int/climatefinance?home>

ANNEX 1: Findings from the Interviews

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE NDC DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AS YOU HAVE PERCEIVED IT IN THREE SENTENCES?

- Kyrgyzstan **started big action** to prepare the NDC.
- It was the **first experience for the country** to develop NDC in terms of systematic **approach, transparency and inclusiveness**. At the same time, on overall the NDC development process in the Kyrgyz Republic was **difficult and challenging**.
- It was **better than 5 years ago** but there is still space for improvement of the process of NDC update: We still need to work together to improve the process.
- The actions are **really good**, and I hope they will work.
- **Not ambitious enough** and the document is **heavy**, too many pages; **not clear** why certain sectors are selected for NDC update.

WHAT FACILITATED AND WHAT HAMPERED YOUR INSTITUTION'S CONTRIBUTION?

- Experts.
- **Unstable political environment and uncertain institutional responsibilities**.
- Hard to find official, clear information e.g. for inventory: open-source **data** is too limited or outdated.
- **limited official mandate**.
- **Personnel fluctuation** is a problem.
- **Change in responsibilities**: government structures.
- Lack of **time**.
- New people become in charge who sometimes don't care or don't know enough.

HOW USEFUL AND UNDERSTANDABLE WAS THE SCIENTIFIC PROCESS AND THE DATA IT PROVIDED?

HOW DID YOU USE IT?

- **Too limited and/or too specific**, party only understandable for experts, more work needed to **improve data**.
- There is no one to collect data and there are **few research centers and academics that focus on CC**.
- Data of latest greenhouse gas inventory made available only to limited number of experts, everyone else had **no access**.
- For calculation, estimation, projection, modelling.
- Broader and **open data base** that serves for modelling/ GHG scenarios to better evaluate the consequences of different paths and measures.
- A **department or structure** should be responsible for data/information.
- More **involvement of academic sector** for **capacity building**.

ON A SCALE 0-10 (0 = NOT AT ALL, 10 = EXTREMELY)
PLEASE RATE THE PROCESS IN TERMS OF:

EFFICIENCY

MEAN: 6,3

INCLUSIVENESS

MEAN: 6,7

CLARITY AND APPROPRIATENESS
OF METHODOLOGY AND
PROCESS STRUCTURE

MEAN: 4,4

TRANSPARENCY

MEAN: 6,9

QUALITY OF THE RESULT FOR
AMBITIOUS CC ACTION

MEAN: 7,4

NUMBER OF RESPONSES PER QUESTION = 7

HOW WOULD A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE NDC ELABORATION PROCESS LOOK LIKE?

- Strong, well connected national **leadership** increases ownership and ensures guidance.
- Clear **institutional structure** from beginning on.
- Have **clear priorities** for the next 10-20 years.
- Detailed **roadmap** with responsibilities, indicators and methodology how to update.
- **Permanent stakeholders.**
- Show process **visibly.**
- Approved **tools** and **methodology.**
- Permanent, clear and open **data base**, strong analytic base; clarity about GHG emission models.
- Good **networking, inclusive political dialogue** involving different ministries, private sector, NGOs etc.
- NDC should **lead all political strategies**; NDC targets should be effectively integrated into all national and sectoral policy documents.
- Established **MRV system** and to track results of measures and include those learnings into net process.
- Build capacity and educate government officials and national experts in this field.

WHICH 3 THINGS SHOULD BE DONE THE SAME WAY AS IN THIS PROCESS?

- **Open dialogue with experts** (international and local and int. organisation) about tools, data, methodology.
- Series of **workshops with government** should be kept but have even more such workshops and share draft earlier.
- Joint path for **discussion** where everyone can speak. It is very important to combine all thoughts and concerns.
- **Inter-ministerial Working Group** that was established should continue.
- **Consideration of all parties:** municipalities, civil society, businesses, international organisations etc.
- Involve **strong NGO and civil society as drivers of climate action.**

WHICH 3 THINGS SHOULD BE DONE DIFFERENTLY?

- Make it **more** transparent, participatory and well justified.
- More **Media coverage** to inform the public, more **Involvement** also from “below” (farmers etc.), more **Proximity** between technical and decision-making level.
- **Permanent platform**, that meets every 6 months to discuss the effects, measures and ensures a constant exchange.
- Organize sectoral meetings to develop sectoral NDC **implementation** plans and have **clear guideline with responsibilities** for inputs of other ministries.
- We need a **proper methodology** to identify proper goals for measures, which will be implemented and good data base/access.
- We need to start the NDC update process today.
- Permanently responsible structure in government that steadily steers process and involvement of **contact persons** of other stakeholders.

WHO SHOULD USE SUCH A REFLECTION DOCUMENT AND FOR WHAT?

- For **state institution responsible** for the next NDC process.
- Also **sectoral ministries**/every state body that contributes.
- **Useful for everyone:** Gouvernement, reserachers, NGOs, experts, private sector, donors.
- Since turnover is very high, the document needs to be “**on every table of every employee**” or even open access.

AND FOR WHAT?

- As a **roadmap/Step by step** methodology guide to prepare NDC.
- Give **guidance** for state bodies on what/how to contributes to NDC development, for smooth **transference between agencies**.
- Explain “how to run the process: **NDC PROCESS not just report**”.
- For the **development of methodology and MRV system** for next round of NDC process.
- For promotion of **NDC friendly businesses**.

HOW WOULD IT NEED TO BE STRUCTURED?

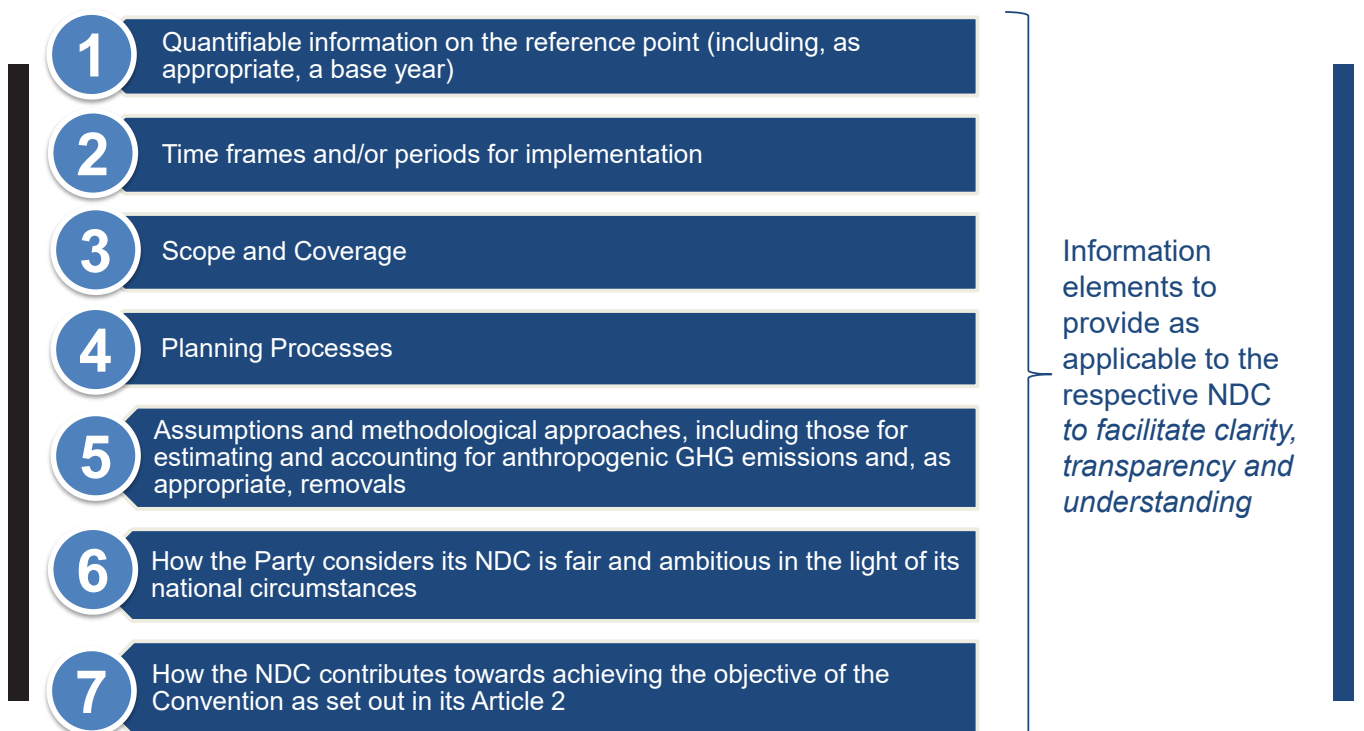
- Clear guide on how the process should be done.
- **Detailed action plan/checklist** for responsible expert/agency.
- Everyone should understand.

AND WHAT WOULD IT HAVE TO INCLUDE TO SUIT THE PURPOSE?

- Effective coordination mechanism.
- **Action plan for implementation.**
- Cover **main priority sectors and their subsectors** including socio-economic aspects and the effects from ecological aspects on them.
- Advice on acknowledged **methods and tools.**
- **Financing.**
- Clear and functional **MRV** and (scientific) **data management system.**
- **Awareness raising parts:** how CC affects different sectors, parts of economy.
- Share **experience from Central Asia and abroad.**

ANNEX 2: Katowice Guidance on ICTU (UNFCCC 2020)

*(ICTU: the information necessary to facilitate clarity,
transparency and understanding) ICTU – Main Elements (4/CMA.1)*



ICTU – Quantified information on the reference point

1. Quantified information on the reference point, including, as appropriate, a base year

a. Reference year(s), base year(s), reference period(s) or other starting point(s);

b. Quantifiable information on the reference indicators, their values in the reference year(s), base year(s), reference period(s) or other starting point(s), and, as applicable, in the target year;

c. For strategies, plans and actions referred to in Article 4, paragraph 6, of the Paris Agreement, or policies and measures as components of NDCs where paragraph 1(b) above is not applicable, Parties to provide other relevant information;

d. Target relative to the reference indicator, expressed numerically, for example in percentage or amount of reduction;

e. Information on sources of data used in quantifying the reference point(s);

f. Information on the circumstances under which the Party may update the values of the reference indicators.

- Understanding the quantified [mitigation] “target”. What is the character, nature of the target and how is it constructed and what is it ‘measured against’
 - Which year/period is your benchmark?
 - What is your indicator (absolute emissions, BAU emissions, emissions intensity...)?
 - If the [mitigation] “target” is not quantifiable, then provide other relevant information.
 - What is your target – mitigation commitment/contribution (*in percentage or amount of reduction*)?
 - What are the data sources (e.g. national inventory)?
 - When/how will you update the reference indicators, given the circumstances?



ICTU – Time frame / period for implementation ICTU – Scope and coverage

2. Time frames and/or periods for implementation

a. Time frame and/or period for implementation, including start and end date, consistent with any further relevant decision adopted by the CMA;

b. Whether it is a single-year or multi-year target, as applicable.

- Understanding the time parameters of NDCs
 - What is the period for implementation?
 - Do you have a single- or multi- year target?

3. Scope and coverage

a. General description of the target;

b. Sectors, gases, categories and pools covered by the nationally determined contribution, including, as applicable, consistent with IPCC guidelines;

c. How the Party has taken into consideration paragraphs 31(c) and (d) of decision 1/CP.21;

d. Mitigation co-benefits resulting from Parties' adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans, including description of specific projects, measures and initiatives of Parties' adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans.

- Understanding what is covered by the [mitigation] “target”
 - What is/are the [mitigation] “target(s)” in the NDC? Conditional?
 - What are the sectors and gases that are covered? (IPCC sectors: energy, IPPU, agriculture, LULUCF and waste; Gases: CO₂, CH₄, N₂O, HFCs, PFCs, SF₆, NF₃)
 - Para 31(c) is an “encouragement” for Parties to strive, over time, to include all categories in subsequent NDCs.
 - Para 31(d) requires an explanation as to why certain categories have not yet been included.
 - If a Party's NDC includes **mitigation co-benefits resulting from Parties' adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans**, these should be described/specified



ICTU – Planning process

4. Planning process

- a. Information on the planning processes that the Party undertook to prepare its NDC and, if available, on the Party's implementation plans;
- b. Specific information applicable to Parties, including regional economic integration organizations and their member States, that have reached an agreement to act jointly under Article 4, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement, including the Parties that agreed to act jointly and the terms of the agreement, in accordance with Article 4, paragraphs 16–18, of the PA;
- c. How the Party's preparation of its NDC has been informed by the outcomes of the global stocktake, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Paris Agreement;
- d. Each Party with an NDC under Article 4 of the PA that consists of adaptation action and/or economic diversification plans resulting in mitigation co-benefits consistent with Article 4, paragraph 7, of the PA to submit information on:
 - How the economic and social consequences of response measures have been considered in developing the NDC
 - Specific projects, measures, activities to be implemented to contribute to mitigation co-benefits and economic diversification actions.....

- Understanding the relevant planning processes, institutional arrangements, national circumstances or other contextual matters that are “behind” a NDC
 - What are the relevant domestic or international planning processes that form a basis/foundation for the NDC?
 - Thus far the only joint NDC is from the European Union, and this information only needs to be provided by the EU.
 - How has the NDC been informed by the GST.
 - Providing the information under 4d is only for Parties whose NDC consists of adaptation action and/or economic diversification plans resulting in mitigation co-benefits (4.7).



ICTU – Assumptions and methodologies

5. Assumptions and methodological approaches, including those for estimating and accounting for anthropogenic GHG emissions and, as appropriate, removals:

- a. Assumptions and methodological approaches used for accounting for anthropogenic GHG emissions and removals corresponding to the Party's NDC, consistent with decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 31, and accounting guidance adopted by the CMA;
- b. Assumptions and methodological approaches used for accounting for the implementation of policies and measures or strategies in the NDC;
- c. If applicable, information on how the Party will take into account existing methods and guidance under the Convention to account for anthropogenic emissions and removals, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 14, of the PA, as appropriate;
- d. IPCC methodologies and metrics used for estimating anthropogenic GHG emissions and removals;
- e. Sector-, category- or activity-specific assumptions, methodologies and approaches consistent with IPCC guidance, as appropriate, including, as applicable:
 - i. Approach to addressing emissions and subsequent removals from natural disturbances on managed lands;
 - ii. Approach used to account for emissions and removals from harvested wood products;
 - iii. Approach used to address the effects of age-class structure in forests;

- Understanding the estimating / accounting for NDCs. *As of the second NDC, all Parties have to use the NDC accounting guidance (4/CMA.1, annex II)*
 - What is the general accounting approach for your NDC?
 - If the NDC consists of/includes non-GHG targets, what are the associated assumptions and methodological approaches (ideally comparable)?
 - Provide information in case the accounting approach draws from an existing accounting method or framework (e.g. forest reference level guidance from KP, REDD+, etc.)
 - Which IPCC GL and GWPs or GTPs are used for the NDC accounting?
 - For NDCs that use a sector/activity specific approach (e.g. a special BAU for transport sector, or reference levels for the land sector, etc.) what are the related accounting assumptions/ approaches/ methodologies?



ICTU – Assumptions and methodologies (cont'd)

5. Assumption and methodological approaches (cont'd)

f. Other assumptions and methodological approaches used for understanding the NDC and, if applicable, estimating corresponding emissions and removals, including:

- i. How the reference indicators, baseline(s) and/or reference level(s), including, where applicable, sector-, category- or activity-specific reference levels, are constructed, including, for example, key parameters, assumptions, definitions, methodologies, data sources and models used;
- ii. For Parties with NDCs that contain non-GHG components, information on assumptions and methodological approaches used in relation to those components, as applicable;
- iii. For climate forcers included in NDCs not covered by IPCC guidelines, information on how the climate forcers are estimated;
- iv. Further technical information, as necessary;

g. The intention to use voluntary cooperation under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, if applicable.

- Information on other assumptions and methodological approaches that are relevant to understand the estimations / accounting of NDCs (may be applicable for 4.7 NDCs)
 - Information on the construction of the baseline for the NDC target, including information on how sector specific baselines/references/etc. contribute to that (if applicable)
 - Information on any further assumptions for non-GHG approaches.
 - Information on emissions and GWPs that are not in IPCC guidance (e.g. black carbon) how are those estimated and what are the relevant values?
 - Any other technical information relevant for the accounting of NDCs
 - Information on the intention to use Art 6, if applicable



ICTU – Consideration of NDC as fair and ambitious

ICTU – Contribution of NDC towards the objective of the Convention

6. How the Party considers that its NDC is fair and ambitious in the light of its national circumstances:

a. How the Party considers that its NDC is fair and ambitious in the light of its national circumstances;

b. Fairness considerations, including reflecting on equity;

c. How the Party has addressed Article 4, paragraph 3, of the Paris Agreement;

d. How the Party has addressed Article 4, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement;

e. How the Party has addressed Article 4, paragraph 6, of the Paris Agreement.

7. How the NDC contributes towards achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2:

a. How the NDC contributes towards achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2;

b. How the NDC contributes towards Article 2, paragraph 1(a), and Article 4, paragraph 1, of the PA.

- Understanding as to how an NDC is fair and ambitious
 - Information as to how/why the NDC is fair and ambitious
 - Further considerations relating to fairness, including on equity
 - 4.3: How does the NDC represent a progression beyond the Party's then previous NDC and reflect its highest possible ambition
 - 4.4: Developing country Parties: Information on how they continue enhancing their mitigation efforts, and how they intent to move over time towards EWERLT in the light of different national circumstances.
- How does the NDC contribute to the global objectives on climate change (Convention, Paris Agreement and decarbonization)



EWERLT: economy wide emission reduction or limitation target

ANNEX 3: Case Study of different approaches to NDC (Harris 2020)

Chile: saw the updated NDC as an opportunity to address, comment on and showcase responses to key domestic and international climate issues, showing how the country had responded to pressures from the public, the COP presidency, and global science (e.g., through their commitment to net-zero emissions). The Chilean government used the update to incorporate other vital elements, such as links to SDGs and the circular economy, as well as a social ‘pillar’ outlining how Chile is aiming for a fair and equitable transition.

Georgia: sees the audience for the updated NDC primarily as the UNFCCC secretariat, but also chose to add or expand other key elements, such as sectoral targets, an expanded adaptation component and a new section on gender and climate, in order to reflect the importance of the role of women as an agent of change. Recognising that the NDC is quite technical and not necessarily tailored to a domestic audience, Georgia took the initiative to produce parallel documents: a climate action plan for donors and domestic implementers, and a series of accessible public-facing ‘one-pagers’ that communicate targets across sectors and engage the public and stakeholders to create a sense of ownership.

Viet Nam: like Georgia, they see the audience for the updated NDC primarily as the UNFCCC secretariat, but have also added elements such as a summary of changes from the INDC. This served the dual purpose of making the document more user-friendly, while also showcasing achievements to date. In addition, the government of Viet Nam has produced a separate document (titled ‘Technical Report of the NDC’) that is targeted more toward a domestic audience and outlines what the NDC means in different sectors. In the Viet Nam case, the NDC update process provided an important opportunity to bring together national experts in a task force. It has served as a focal point around which sectoral data and activities could be harmonised, e.g. by identifying opportunities

to standardise reporting between ministries. The NDC structure, which includes information on sectoral activities, also supported the engagement of ministries through their desire to ensure reporting accuracy and future accountability.

Singapore: sees the updated NDC primarily as a form of communication to the UNFCCC, and specifically focusses on providing the required information for clarity, transparency and understanding, structured in a table format. The NDC succinctly presents information on the key elements required and summarises the key enhancements made. However, the government of Singapore has submitted in parallel to the UNFCCC its long-term low emission development strategy, (LT-LEDS), which provides additional details and context, similar to the publication of their national climate action plan in 2016 which outlined Singapore’s strategies to achieve the first NDC.

Mongolia: considers a range of audiences for the updated NDC. Through the revised NDC, Mongolia wants to attract international support, facilitate a paradigm shift and bring national stakeholders into the process. The aim was for the revised NDC to meet all international requirements and be accepted as a national document. As with Georgia, information on gender was included as well, whereas it was not part of the NDC submitted in 2016.

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