

# Understanding the NDC process

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# Presentation overview

Introduction

UNDP's Climate  
Promise: trends

Introducing the  
NDC process

Raising NDC  
ambition: key  
decisions

UNDP resources

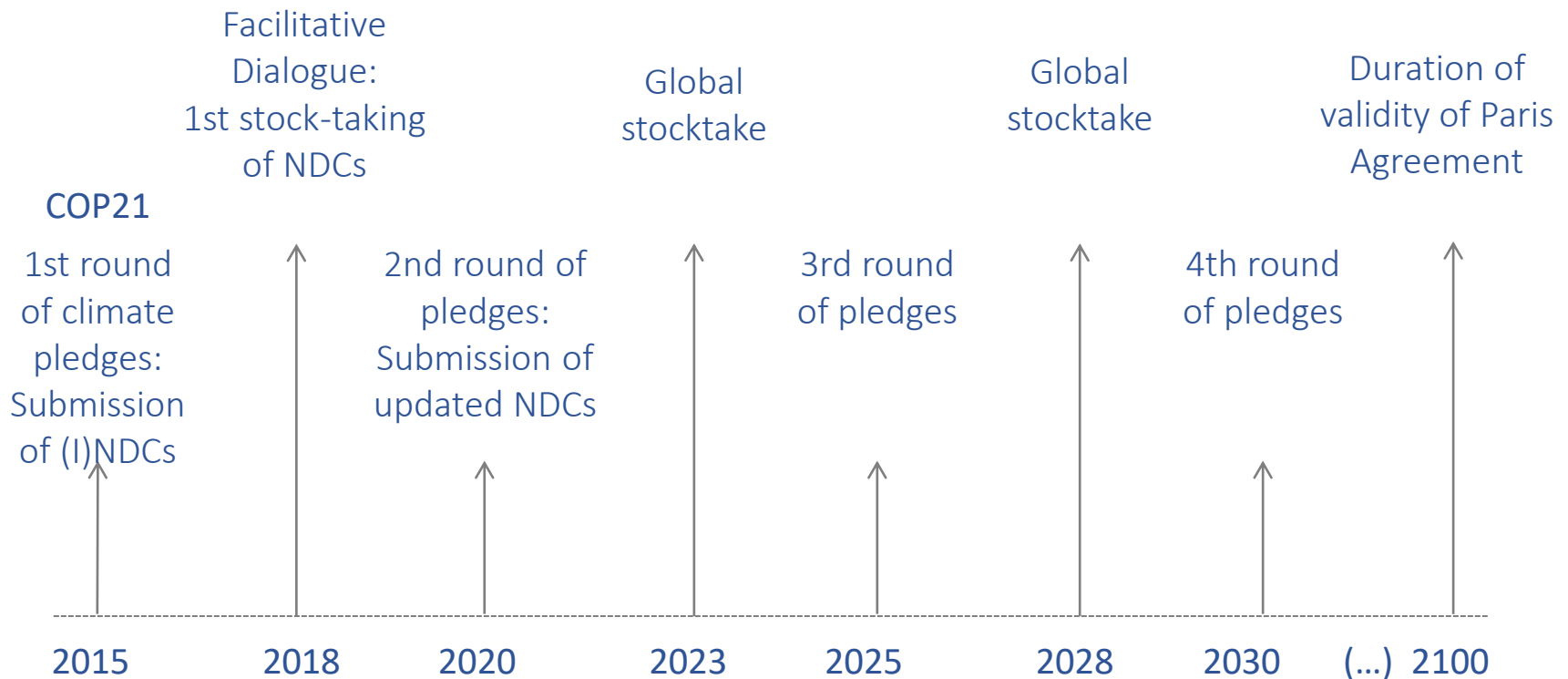
# Introduction

A person wearing a patterned headscarf is shown in profile, looking out over a landscape. The background is a blurred view of a body of water and a distant shoreline under a blue sky with some clouds. The person's hands are visible, holding a yellow object, possibly a bag or a piece of clothing.

## Why prepare NDCs?

- “Engine” of Paris Agreement – essential for raising ambition and achieving global goals
- Strengthen adaptive response & resilience of vulnerable communities
- Seize opportunities for economic growth & development:
  - Demonstrate climate leadership & attract climate finance & investment
  - Identify & take advantage of technological advances
  - Avoid carbon lock-in & increased transition costs
  - Capitalize on action by subnational & non-state actors
- Build broad buy-in from key Ministries, stakeholders, & civil society
- Maximize synergies with SDGs
- Align with carbon neutrality & long-term strategies

# Paris Agreement's ambition mechanism



- Parties whose (i)NDC has timeframe up to 2025 to communicate new NDC by 2020
- Parties whose (i)NDC has timeframe up to 2030 to communicate new NDC or update existing one
- Parties shall submit their NDC for each 5-year cycle at least 9-12 months in advance of relevant session

# UNDP's Climate Promise: Trends



## Lebanon increases climate goal despite political and economic turmoil

Published on 17/03/2021, 2:32pm

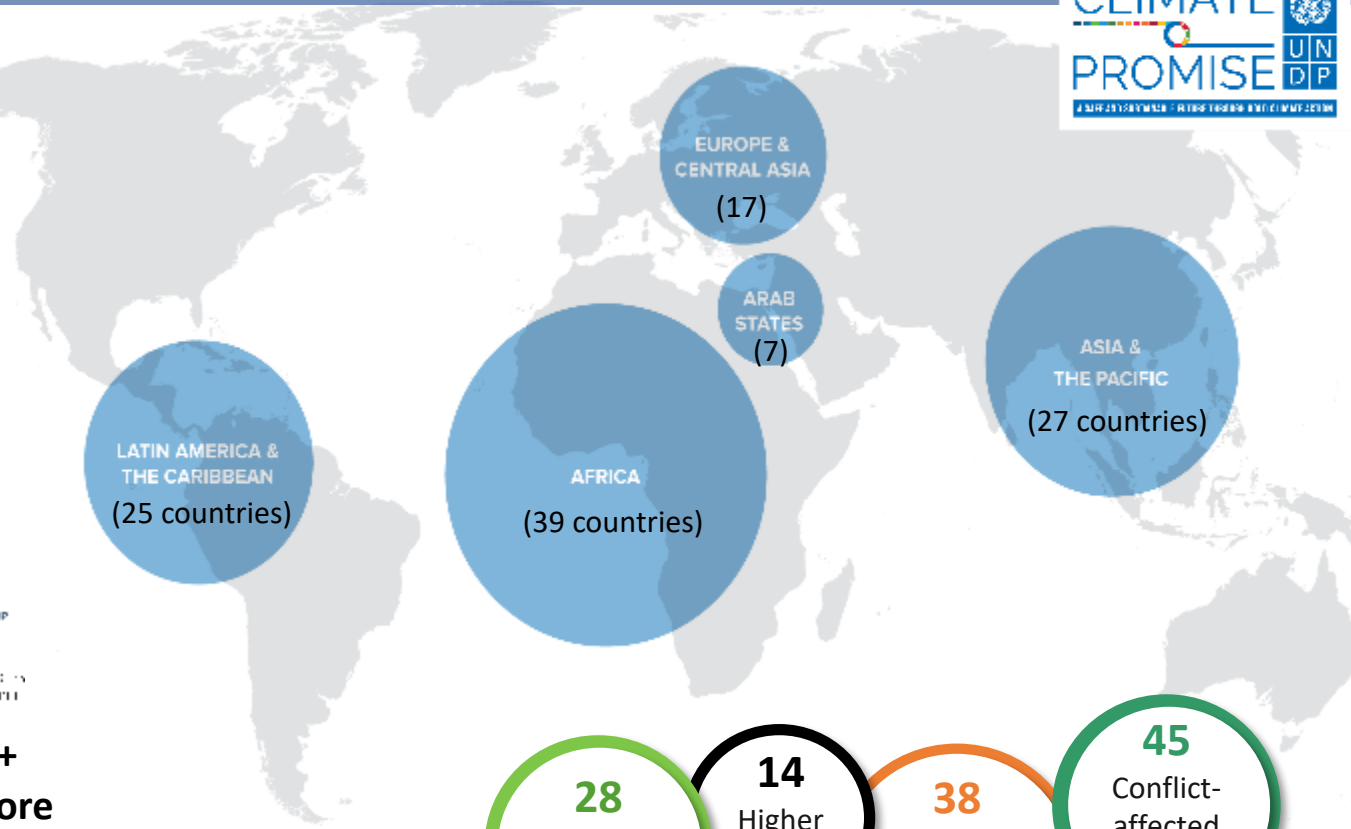
While battling political upheaval, coronavirus and its worst economic crisis in 30 years, Lebanon has strengthened its 2030 emissions target



# UNDP's Climate Promise is largest global offer on NDC enhancement: supporting **118 countries** in collaboration with **35 partners**



+  
**more**



Supported by:  
Federal Ministry  
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and Development



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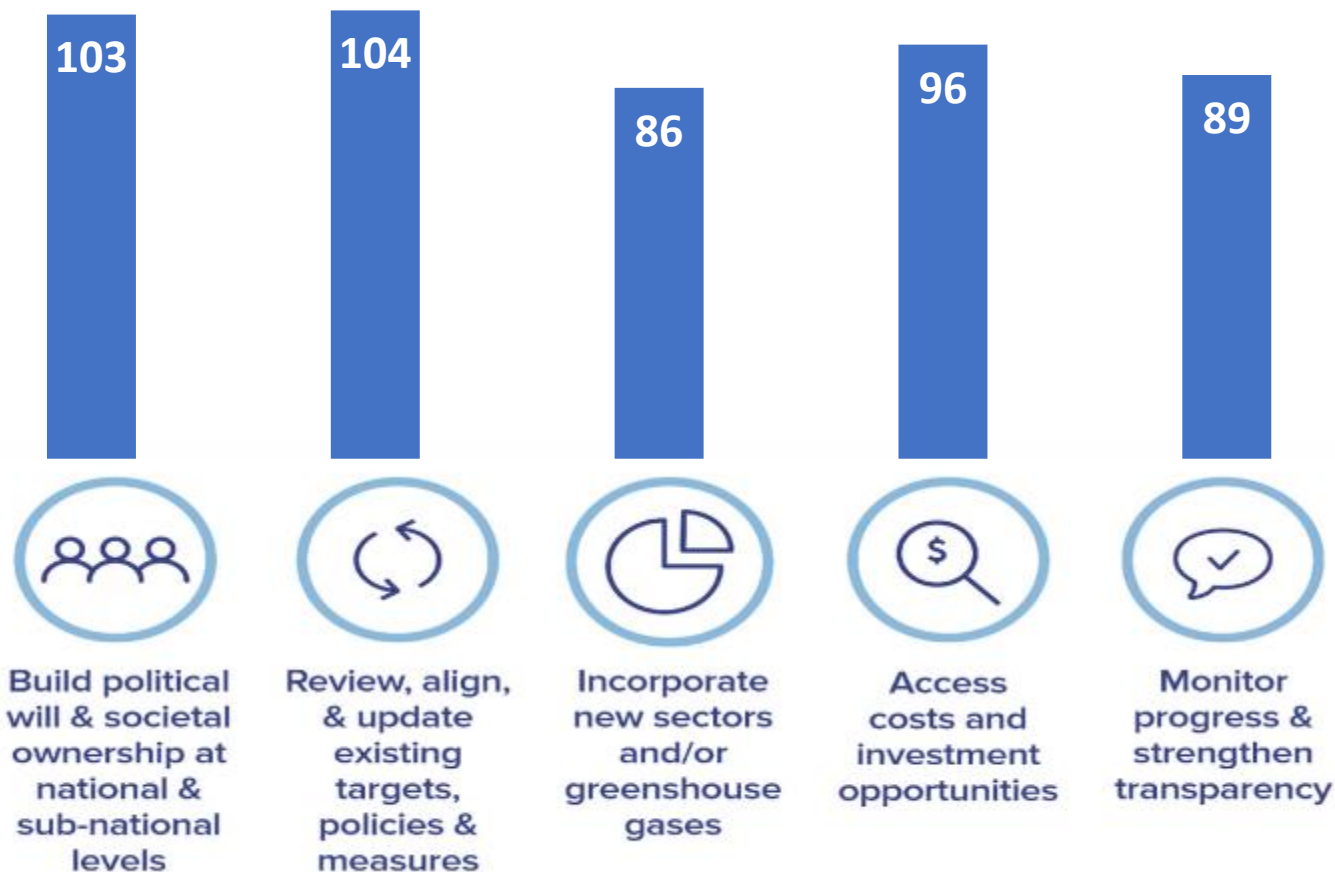
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MINISTERIO DEL AMBIENTE  
GOBIERNO DE COLOMBIA

+ UNDP's  
Core Donors

## Climate Promise was framed around **five core service areas**



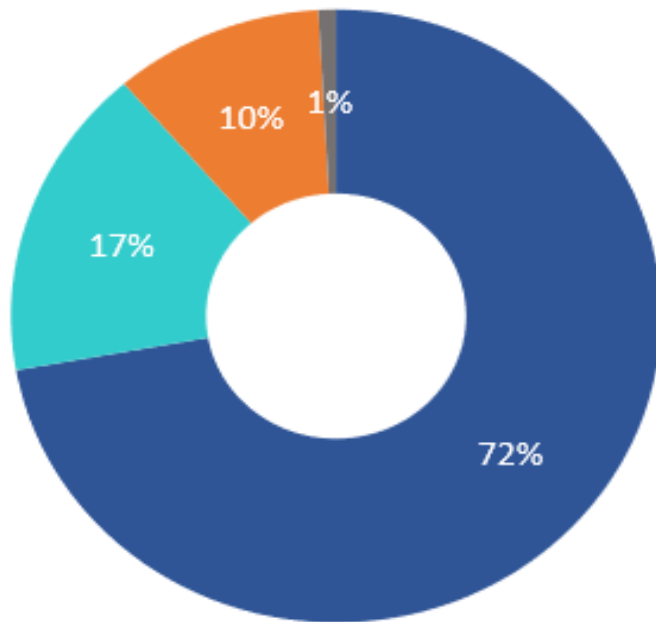
As result of Climate Promise support, **countries' NDCs are stronger, more ambitious, more inclusive, and easier to implement**



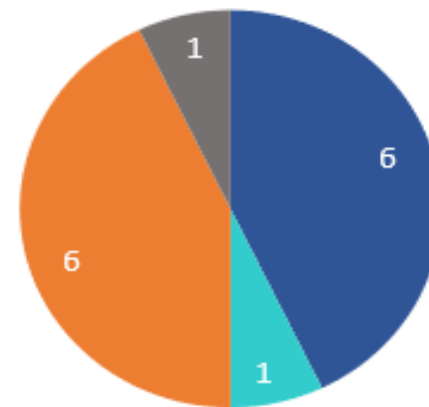
## Trend: Mitigation Ambition

Despite COVID-19, majority of countries still plan to raise mitigation ambition, including over 70% of Climate Promise countries

All Climate Promise Countries

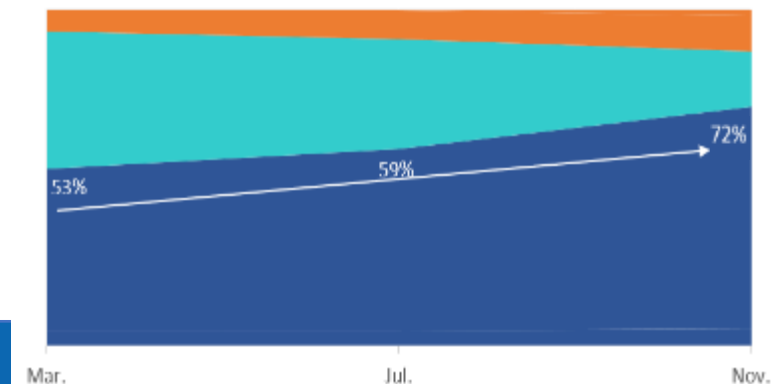


Higher Emitters



■ Yes/likely    ■ Unclear/no info  
■ Unlikely/No    ■ Not submitting

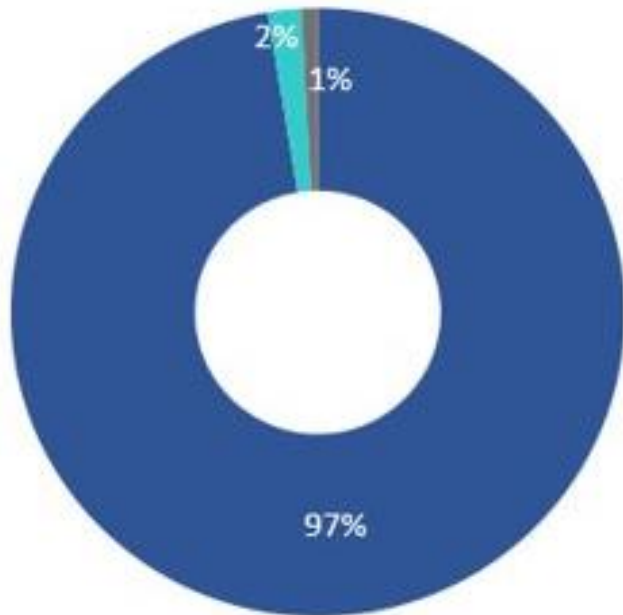
Ambition Trend (Climate Promise Countries)



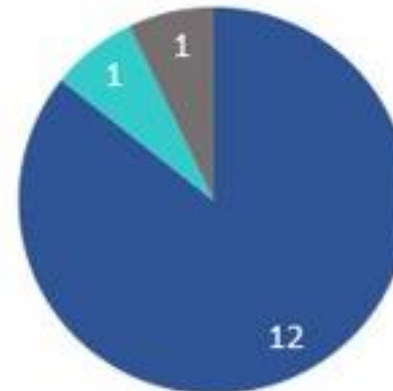
## Trend: Adaptation Ambition

Adaptation is gaining momentum, as important as mitigation; 97% of Climate Promise countries intend to raise adaptation ambition

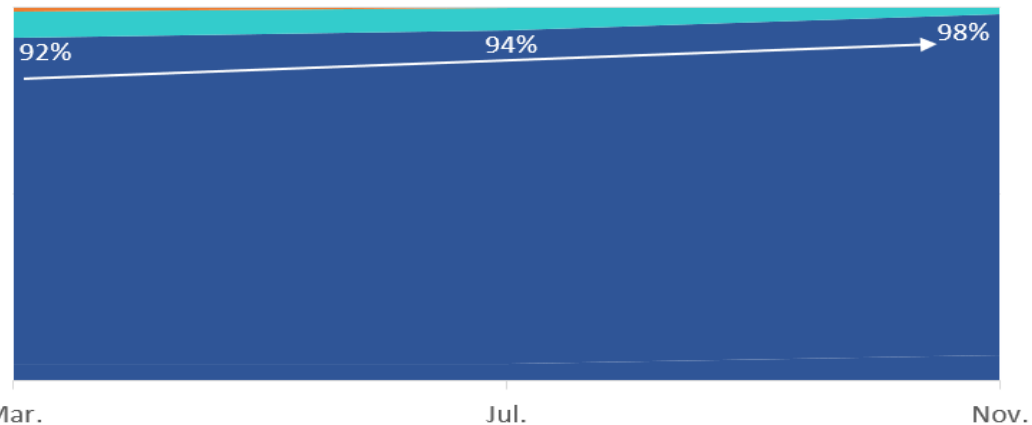
All Climate Promise Countries



Higher Emitters



Ambition Trend (Climate Promise Countries)



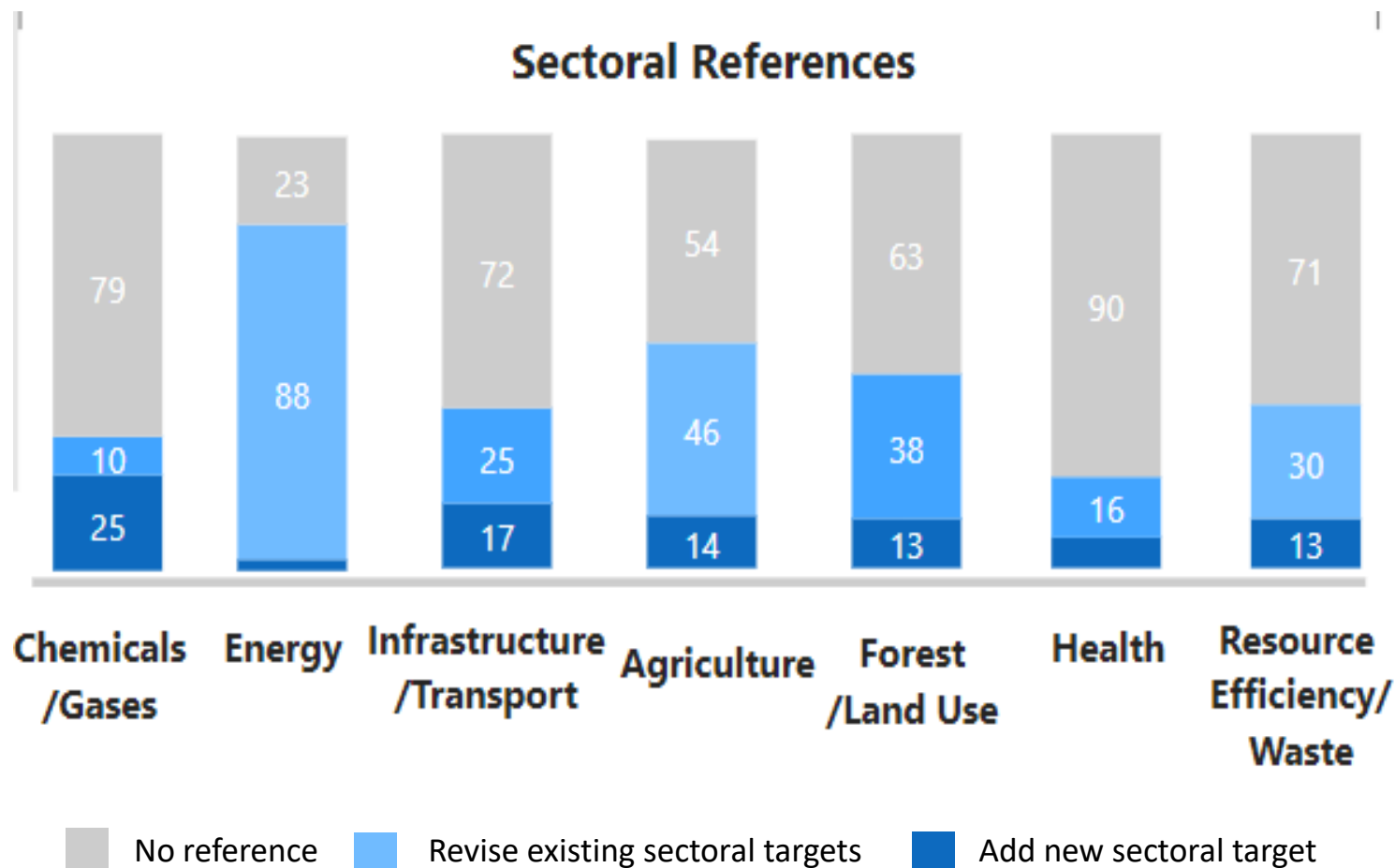
■ Yes/likely

■ Unclear/no info

■ Not submitting

## Trend: Thematic Approaches

Countries focused on a broad range of sectors in their NDC enhancement – with a majority looking at energy and nature-based solutions (agriculture, forest/land use)



## Trend: NDCs and Inclusivity

## Enhanced NDCs aim to be increasingly inclusive and country-driven



**94% of Climate Promise countries prioritizing political will and societal ownership as part of their NDC enhancement**



**97% of countries including gender-responsive activities in work plans**

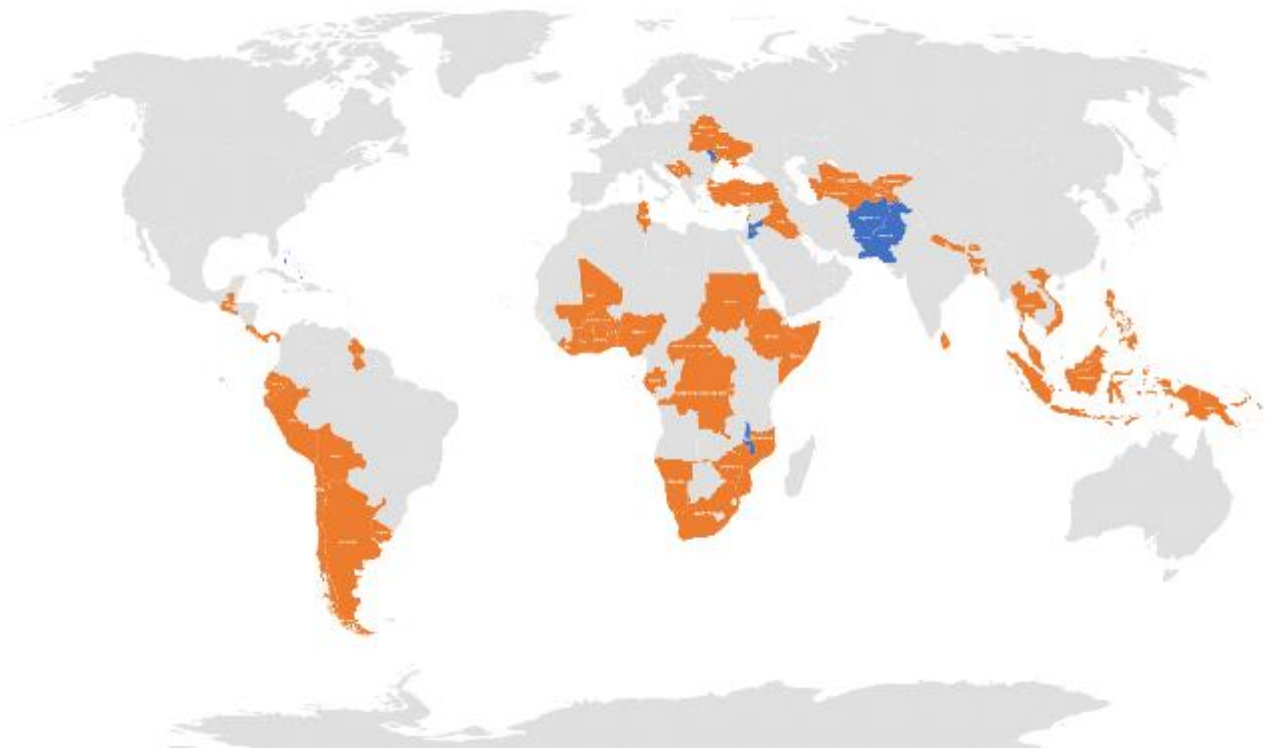
**75% of Climate Promise countries prioritizing youth**

## Trend: NDCs as a driver for green recovery

**Over 60 Climate Promise countries are linking NDCs and green recovery and pursuing the UN Secretary General's Recovery Better Principles**

Aligning with SG's Principles  
(% of all Climate Promise countries)

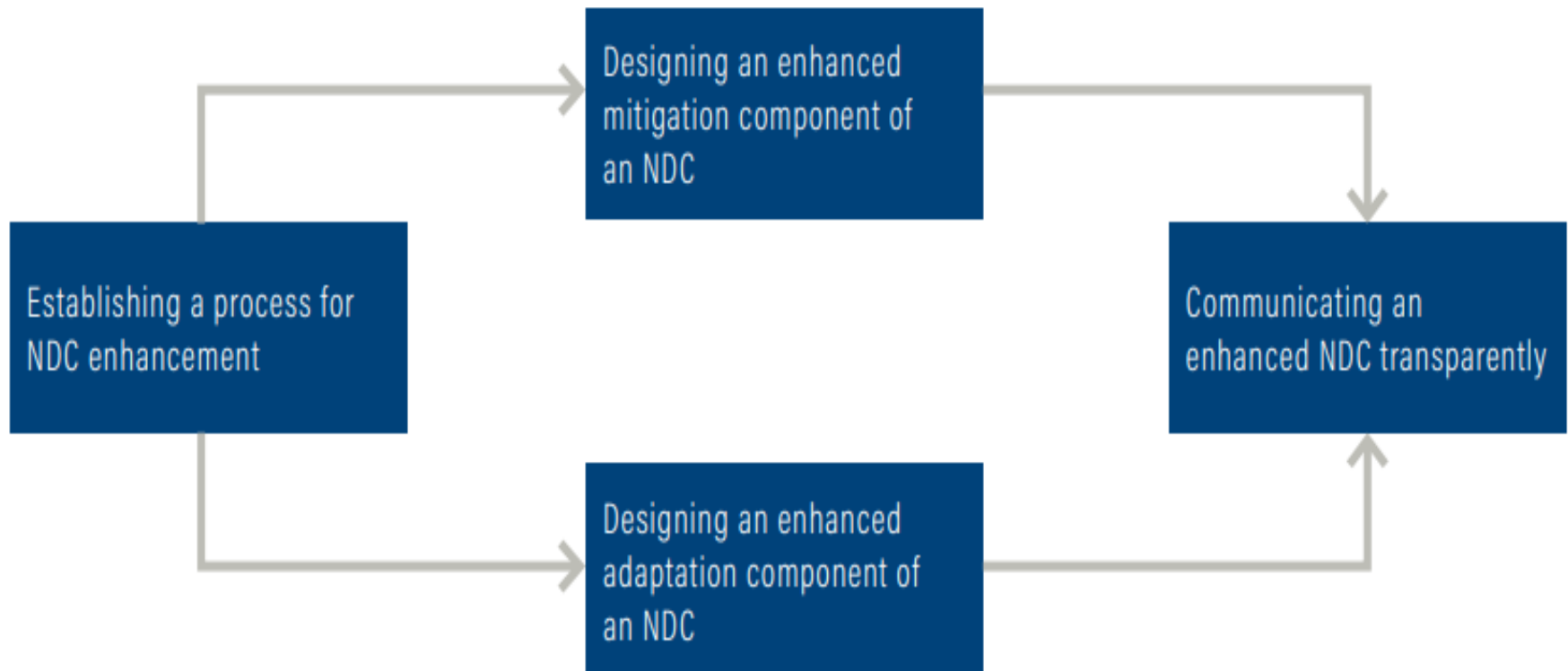
-  30% "Invest in Green Jobs"
-  15% "Working Together"
-  11% "Leaving No One Behind"
-  2% "Climate in All Decisions"
-  1% "End fossil-fuel subsidies"
-  No countries to date examining bailout for polluting industries



**Majority of countries focusing on investing in green jobs and leaving no one behind.**

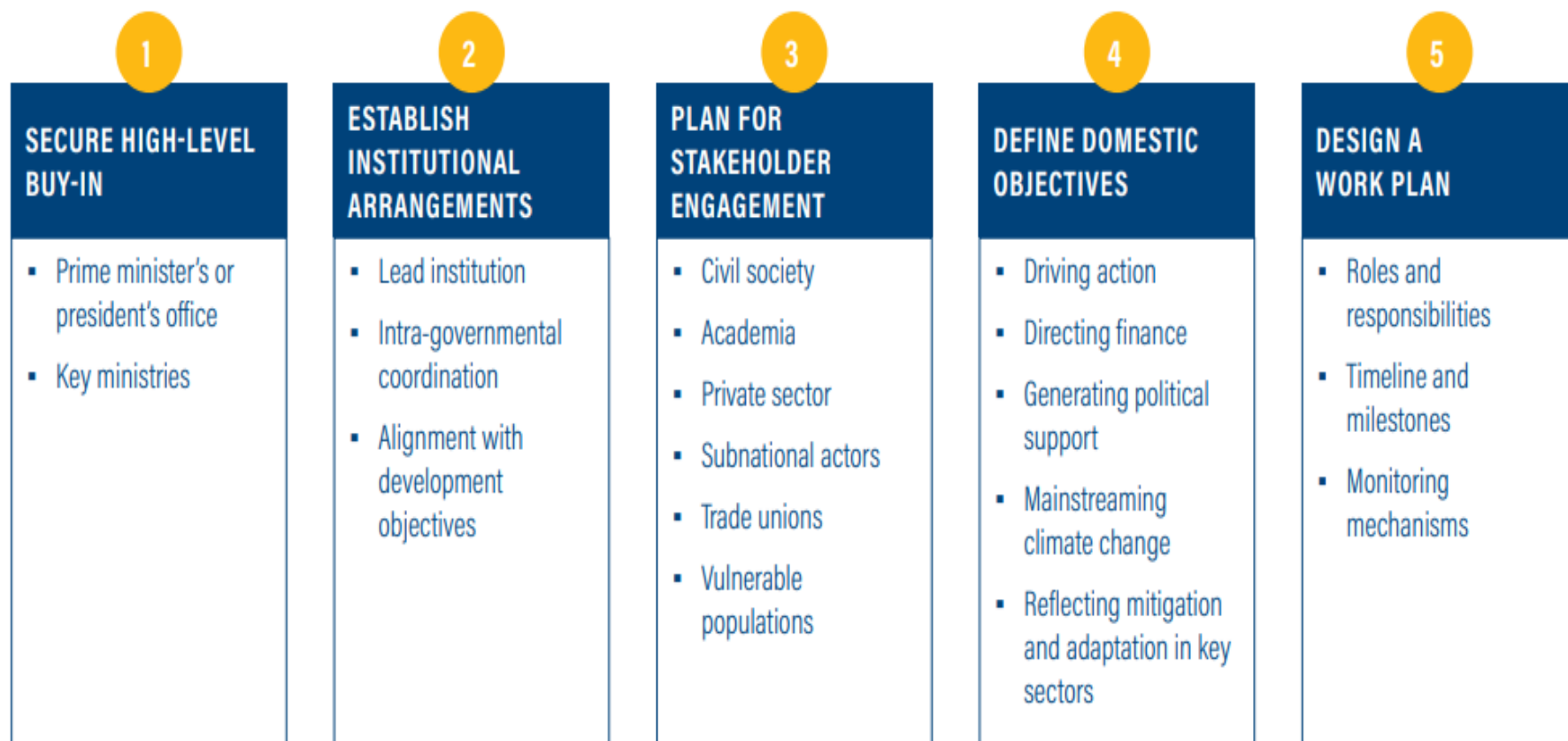
# Introducing the NDC Process

# UNDP/WRI defined 4 key steps/decision points in NDC enhancement process





# Establishing clear and inclusive process for NDC enhancement process is vital first step







## Securing high-level buy-in: Republic of Marshall Islands


- First nation to submit a second NDC (Nov 2018)
- First island nation to create net-zero mid-century strategy (*Tile Til Eo 2050 Climate Strategy – “Lighting the Way”*)
- Gender and human rights at the center of NDC implementation
- President helped motivate stakeholders to engage in dialogue around climate action
- Prominent roles in High Ambition Coalition and Climate Vulnerable Forum



## “Let’s Talk About the NDC”: Peru

- Government launched highly participatory process (*“Dialoguemos sobre las NDC”*) to engage national and local stakeholders, including private sector, indigenous peoples, civil society.
- Key sectors: Agriculture; environment; energy and mines; transport; industry; health; housing, construction & sanitation





## Preliminary results: GENDER INCLUSION IN SUBMITTED REVISED NDCs

- **41 submitted from CP countries**
- **38 have varying gender dimensions**
- **18 countries that now include gender did not in first NDC**

### ***Country Examples:***

- **Chile** has made gender a policy priority in NDC project/measures criteria
- **Moldova** has included gender capacity building for government institutions across several measures in NDC
- **Nepal** NDC will support gender-sensitive adaptation planning at sub-national levels



## Chile: Incorporating a just transition into NDC

UNDP supported Ministry of Environment to integrate gender into its participatory process and consultations on the NDC revision through the creation of the Climate Change and Gender Working Group.

- Revised NDC included social pillar of just transition & sustainable development, underpinned by principles of gender equity & equality, re: allocations of burdens, costs and benefits during NDC implementation
- Assessments of risks & vulnerability to inform design of adaptation measures to be gender-sensitive
- Gender mainstreaming is proposed for all climate change policies, programs, plans and actions



# Raising NDC Ambition

# Different definitions of 'climate ambition'

- Generally, increased **ambition** refers to an **increase in mitigation**
- When we talk of '**improved**', '**updated**' or '**enhanced**' NDCs, we usually refer to NDCs that have been improved, but will not necessarily result in increased climate mitigation.
- These NDCs are more likely to be submitted by developing countries which have made negligible contributions to historic GHG emissions

# Approaches to NDC enhancement



## MITIGATION AMBITION

Strengthen  
or add a  
**GHG target**

Strengthen or add  
a **sectoral non-GHG  
target**

Strengthen or add  
**policies and actions**

Align  
implementation  
of the existing NDC  
with **long-term  
goals**

## ADAPTATION

Update or add  
information on  
**trends, impacts &  
vulnerabilities**

Update or add  
**current & near-  
term planning and  
action**

Update or add  
**monitoring,  
evaluation &  
learning plans**

Update or add  
information on  
**national long-term  
goals or vision**

Update or add  
information on **gaps &  
barriers**

## IMPLEMENTATION

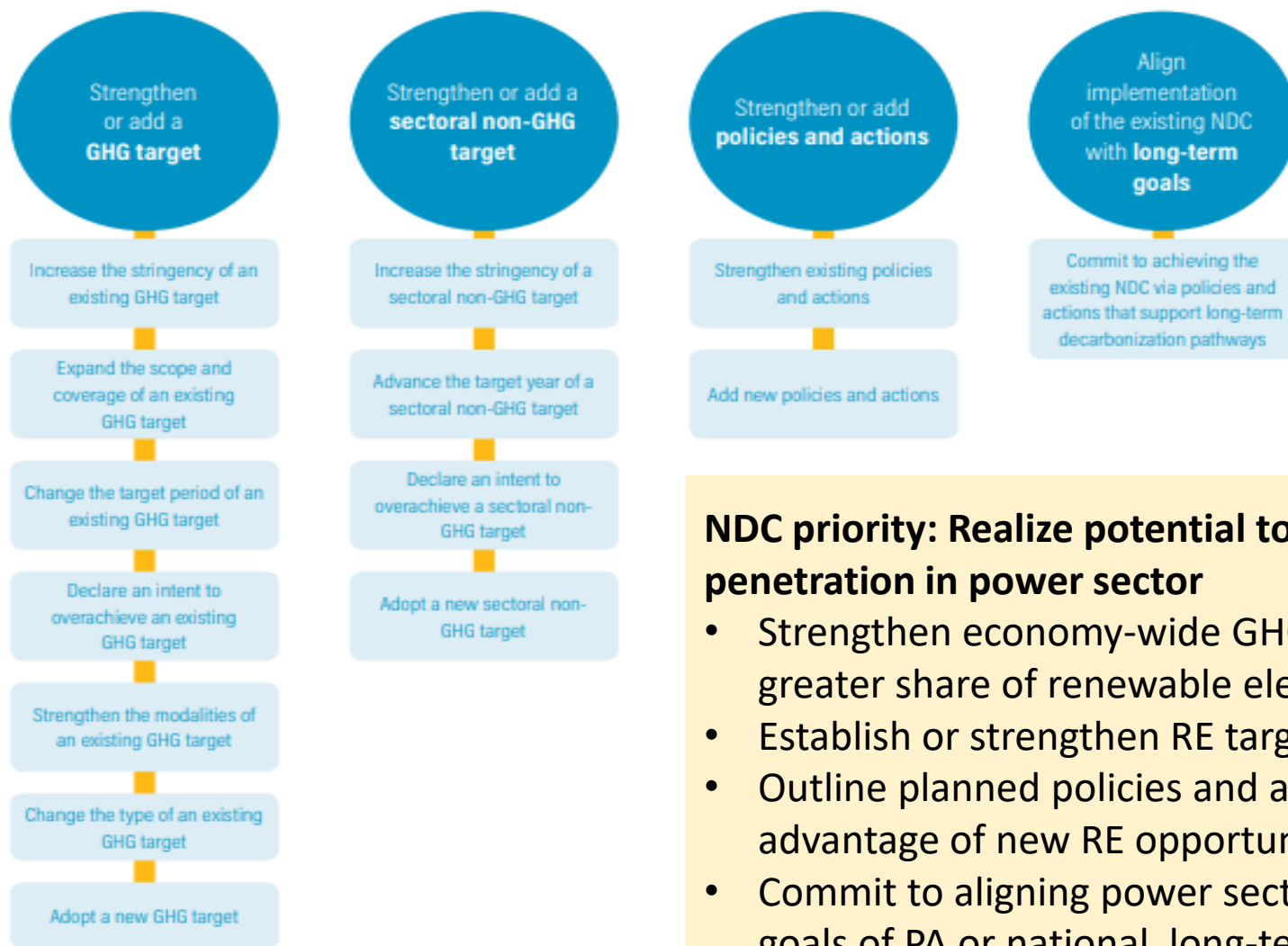
Add actions  
or measures  
to **strengthen  
implementation**

## COMMUNICATION

Provide basic  
information to  
enhance **clarity,  
transparency &  
understanding**

Provide  
**additional  
detail**

# Unpacking enhancement of mitigation component of NDC

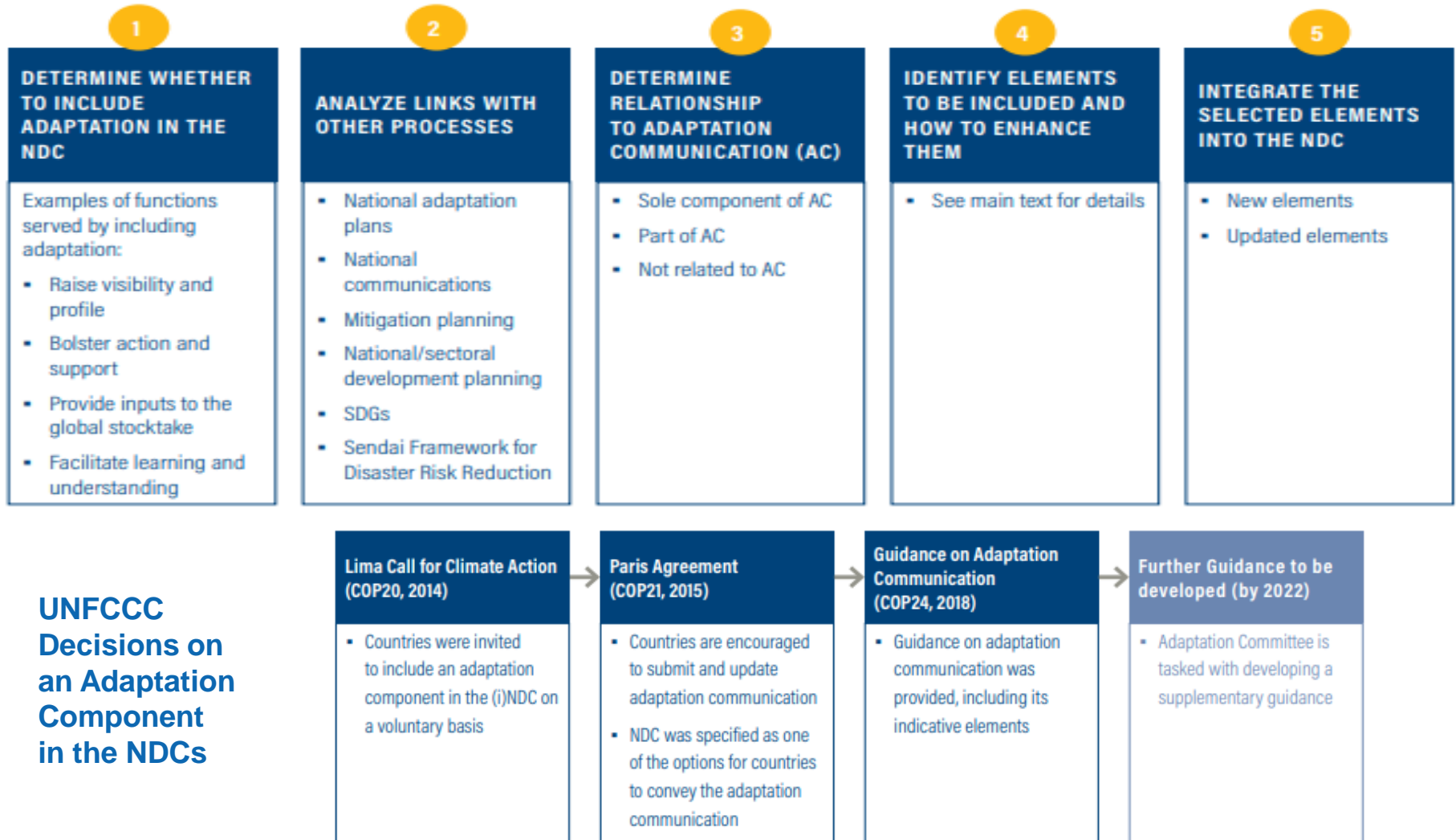


## NDC priority: Realize potential to increase RE penetration in power sector

- Strengthen economy-wide GHG target, assuming greater share of renewable electricity
- Establish or strengthen RE target
- Outline planned policies and actions to take advantage of new RE opportunities
- Commit to aligning power sector with long-term goals of PA or national long-term strategy



# Enhancing an Adaptation Component in NDCs



# Key components of NDC for transparency



1. Background and historical context
2. Quantifiable information on reference point (incl. base year, as appropriate)
3. Mitigation targets
4. Time frames/periods for implementation
5. Scope and coverage (sectors, gases, % of emissions covered, co-benefits, etc)
6. Adaptation goals
7. Relevant national and sectoral development plans supporting NDC targets & goals
8. Assumptions
9. Planning processes & institutional arrangements undertaken to prepare NDC and/or implement
10. How NDC is fair & ambitious

# Gases and sectors

The UNFCCC  
reporting  
guidelines  
cover:

- Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)
- Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>)
- Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O)
- Perfluorocarbons (PFCs)
- Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)
- Sulphur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>);
- Nitrogen trifluoride (NF<sub>3</sub>)

From five  
sectors:

- Energy
- Industrial processes and product use
- Agriculture
- Land use, land-use change and forestry
- Waste

# Expand scope: Example from Kenya



- The below table has been sourced from Kenya's Second National Communication to the UNFCCC (2015)
- Many NDCs will include GHG inventory tables or define baseline year for the NDC, in which a baseline study of GHG emissions will have taken place

**Table 1: Emission Patterns by Sector and GHG Type**

No.	Sector	2000 Emissions (CO <sub>2</sub> e - Gg)				TOTAL	TOTAL as %
		CO <sub>2</sub>	CH <sub>4</sub>	N <sub>2</sub> O	HFCs		
2	Energy sector	7,227	1,932	601		9,760	17.76
3	Industrial process sector	694			118	812	1.48
4	Solvent and other product use					-	-
5	Agriculture sector	-	13,041	9,498		22,539	41.01
6	Land use, land-use change and forestry	20,571	57	9		20,637	37.55
7	Waste	7	697	502		1,205	2.19
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28,499</b>	<b>15,726</b>	<b>10,611</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>54,955</b>	<b>100</b>

# Nigeria: filling gaps to raise ambition



1 Inclusion of waste sector targets



2. Inclusion of water resources sector targets



3. Base year for GHG assessment was updated from 2010 to 2018



4. The INDC covered CO2 NH4 and N2O; updated NDC covers 11 pollutants

# North Macedonia to reduce GHGs 82% by 2030

- 63 policies and measures analyzed; linked to “build forward better” approach to COVID-19 challenge
- Greening economy may create ~8,000 new jobs by 2030
- Shift to circular economy can deliver annual reductions of 951 Gg CO<sub>2</sub>-eq, create 2,740 new jobs and generate ~ EUR 50 million by 2030
- Strong social ownership of the revised NDC
- Crucial support of Macedonian private sector
- Synergies between SDGs and enhanced NDC almost three times stronger than highest trade-offs







## Argentina's revised NDC: sub-national engagement key to ambition

- Developed 17 GHG emission scenarios that considered implementation of different mitigation measures in key sectors (i.e., energy, agriculture, transport, industry, and forestry) and expected growth rates
- Commitment of sub-national governments was also key to increasing the ambition of the NDC
- Gender-responsive
- Aligned with SDGs
- Highly consultative youth engagement process

# Donor expectations for NDCs: NAMA Facility



NAMA Facility 'Ambition Call' in 2020<sup>1</sup> dedicated to supporting projects that contribute to 'updated/ more ambitious NDCs'

Mitigation targets that:

- Imply significant reduction of economy-wide GHG emissions below business-as-usual emissions trajectories and/or
- Include rapid reduction of GHG in key emitting sectors with view to achieving decarbonisation; and/or
- imply early peaking of GHG emissions and rapid decarbonisation thereafter; and/or
- aligned with an existing net-zero target.

(1) strengthening mitigation targets and actions over time;

(2) strengthening emissions reduction goals (including addition of sector-specific targets); or

(3) broadening the scope to include wider coverage of sectors or gases.

➔ Moving from conditional to unconditional targets, shortening timelines, adding policies and measures.



# Donor expectations for NDCs: Switzerland



## Decisions re: conditional vs. unconditional targets

- Some donors will only commit finance for conditional NDC activities
- E.g. Switzerland seeks to support conditional NDC actions to avoid interfering with a country's unconditional pledges that they have committed to undertake without support
- So, although the international community is urging all countries to be as ambitious as possible, **including conditional targets is still a pragmatic and necessary element of the NDC process** for most developing countries

# UNDP's NDC quality assurance checklist



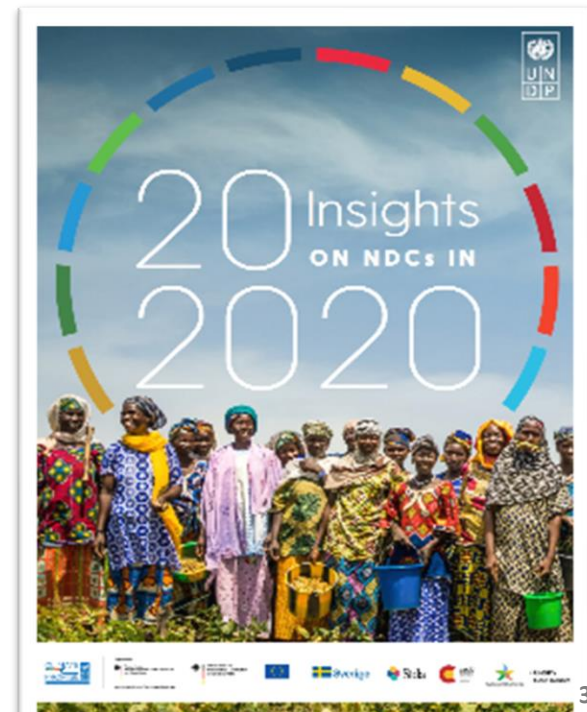
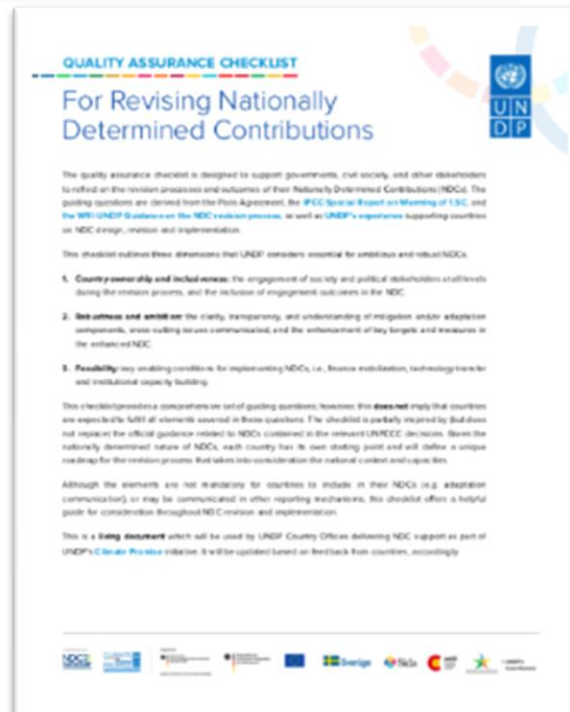
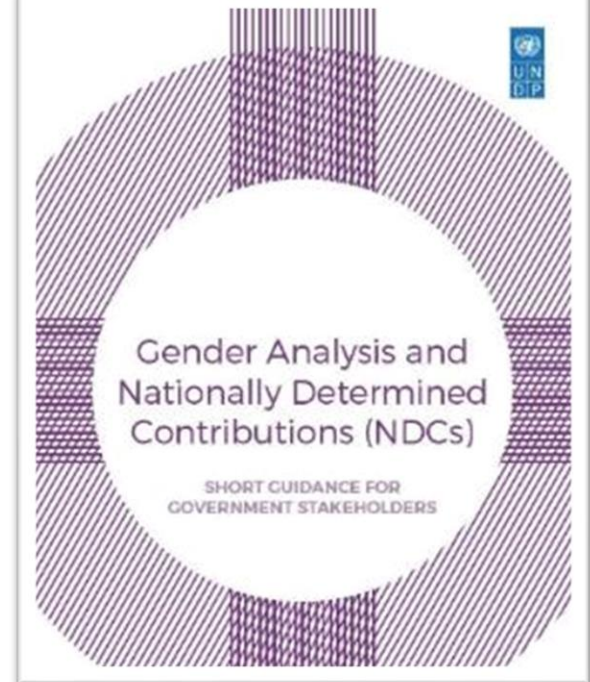
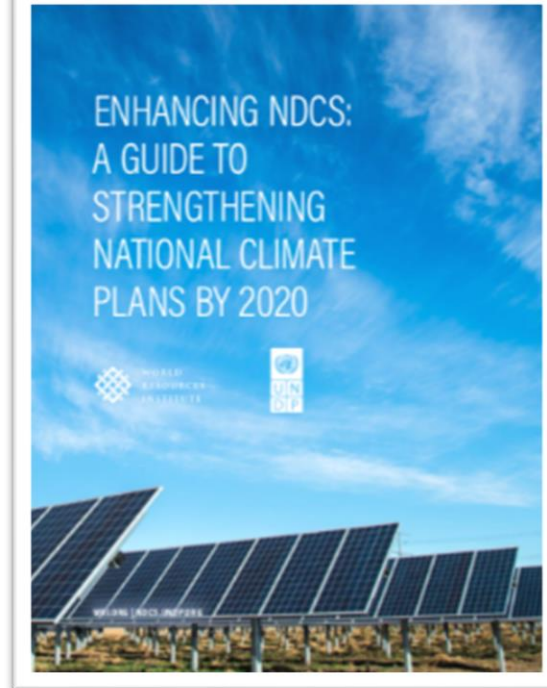
	Yes	Partially	No
1. Does the NDC strengthen and/or add a <b>GHG target</b> that results in less cumulative GHG emissions compared to the previous NDC?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Has the NDC increased the scope of the <b>unconditional component</b> of its mitigation targets, compared to its previous NDC?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Does the NDC strengthen or add <b>sectoral non-GHG target(s)</b> (e.g., 50% renewable energy to 80%)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Does the NDC include information on strengthened or new <b>policies/actions</b> for mitigation, compared to the previous NDC?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. Does the NDC increase the <b>geographical coverage</b> since the previous NDC and/or cover the entire geography of the country?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Does the NDC increase the <b>sectoral coverage</b> since the previous NDC and/or cover <b>all sectors</b> (as defined by the IPCC)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. Does the NDC increase GHG coverage since its previous NDC and/or cover <b>all gases</b> (as defined by the IPCC)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Questions?



# UNDP NDC enhancement resources

<https://www.ndcs.undp.org/content/ndc-support-programme/en/home/impact-and-learning/library/master-ndc-resource-page.html>





## Building the Economy of Tomorrow: Using NDCs to Inform Green Recovery

As governments move to take bold action to address COVID-19, the world has an unprecedented opportunity to restructure economies that are equitable, resilient, and climate-responsive.

**Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Long-Term Strategies (LTS)** can serve as building blocks to integrate ambitious climate action and COVID-19 recovery to build back better. NDCs that are aligned to governments' national development plans and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can spur economic growth, technology transformation, job creation and address key social inequalities that are critical for recovery. Indeed, a new study by Oxford University shows that recovery packages that seek synergies between economic and climate goals have better potential for reducing climate risks, increasing national wealth, and enhancing production, human, social, physical and natural capital.

**NDCs and green recovery** can be mutually reinforcing. Recovery plans can incorporate NDC targets and strategies, while also leveraging NDC enhancement processes, including stakeholder consultations, socio-economic and sectoral assessments, and modeling, to strengthen systems that pave the way for long-term sustainable development.

### POLITICAL, FINANCIAL AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS

**POLITICAL:** Facing COVID-19, political engagement by governments and civil society for bold climate action has taken on new meaning and momentum. Leaders can more clearly advance integrated robust health systems or protect communities – that achieve both a climate action.

For example, political will for reform and government budgets to align with recovery plans changes, as demonstrated in the Coalition of Finance Ministers. Aligning NDC enhancement, green development policies helps to ensure growth, economic and health recovery while achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.

### Realising Synergies Between COVID-19 and Climate Change

While closely intertwined, the COVID-19 and climate crises have many similarities. Climate change, like the global pandemic, is a non-linear risk multiplier with severe socio-economic impacts that grow disproportionately among different social groups, and even sub-nationally, even within households are affected. In addition, COVID-19 also stresses a major corridor that global risks require collective action, solidarity, and cooperation.

**FINANCIAL:** The unprecedented levels of public and private finance being used to stimulate economies are also a critical opportunity to invest in climate risk factors. Further, by aligning financial systems to incorporate NDC priorities, countries can build structures that put countries on a more resilient pathway in the long term.

**Public Finance:** NDCs can inform public spending decisions on green recovery, using public climate finance management tools and fiscal policies. Green budgeting, for example, is a useful tool for informing tax and spending decisions, and economic instruments such as carbon pricing can provide needed resources for recovery. Many countries are using the opportunity of NDC enhancement to build stronger public finance systems, including the monitoring and reporting capacities which are critical for recovery.

**Private Finance:** The path to building back better must ensure that private finance is leveraged to spur the economies of tomorrow – including by accelerating green job growth and investment in clean technologies. NDC financing frameworks already articulate costs, highlight finance gaps, reflect national finance flows and identify investment opportunities for the private sector. The pandemic is also an opportunity to build capacities in climate risk modeling to inform investors and highlight the fiscal risks of unsustainable investments.

## Water Interactions for Consideration in NDC Enhancement & Implementation

Sectoral checklists to help climate change professionals and decision makers identify water-related issues



United Nations  
Climate Change



UN  
Development  
Programme

NDC Global Outlook Report 2019

# The Heat is On

Taking Stock of Global Climate Ambition



ACCELERATING CLIMATE  
AMBITION AND IMPACT:  
Toolkit for Mainstreaming Nature  
Based Solutions into Nationally  
Determined Contributions

WAY FOR INCREASING  
SOLUTIONS IN NDCs

Step Approach for Enhancing  
Determined Contributions  
through Nature-based Solutions



NDC  
PARTNERSHIP



New York Declaration on Forests  
GLOBAL PLATFORM



United Nations  
Development  
Programme

# Other frameworks for measuring ambition of NDCs



**Climate Watch** <https://www.climatewatchdata.org/>

- Managed by WRI and the NDC Partnership, of which UNDP helps lead
- Synthesises aggregates data from NDCs and emissions data

**Climate Action Tracker** <https://climateactiontracker.org/>

- Independent initiative funded by EU, Germany and Climate Works Foundation
- Analyses and ranks NDCs against certain benchmarks, providing an overall rating benchmarked against Paris Agreement goals

