Ambition and Opportunity in America’s New Climate Commitments

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**UNFCCC**
1. Establishes basic governance system, like objectives and principles, data collection and sharing commitments, institutional arrangements
2. Non binding emission targets

**Kyoto Protocol**
1. Operates under UNFCCC governance system
2. Establishes legally binding GHG limits on Annex 1/developed countries
3. Creates market-based mechanisms

**Paris Agreement**
1. Operates under UNFCCC governance system
2. Sets global temperature goal, adaptation goal, and nationally determined contributions (NDCs) of all Parties to reach it
3. Creates enhanced transparency framework and global stock take

**UNFCCC**
1992/1994
197 Parties
COP

**Kyoto Protocol**
1997/2005
192 Parties
CMP

**Paris Agreement**
2015/2016
191 Parties
CMA
NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS

SELF DETERMINED CLIMATE PLANS
from each country participating in the Paris Agreement (PA)

PARIS AGREEMENT OBJECTIVES

01 TEMPERATURE GOAL
Keep a global temperature rise this century well below 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius (above pre-industrial levels).

02 RESILIENCE
Increase the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change.

03 FINANCIAL FLOW
Work towards making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.

WHAT DO NDCs ENTAIL?
Each member country from the PA determines their contributions in the context of their national priorities, circumstances and capabilities.

Mitigation
NDCs allow countries to outline actions parties can take to reduce GHG emissions.

Adaptation
A key component in sustainable development, in many cases NDCs detail the mitigation strategies with resilience measures to ensure we are equipped for the shifting climate.

Mitigation Sectors and Actions
Parties can choose different sectors, such as transportation, waste management, energy efficient, or forestry, for their climate actions.

Adaptation Sectors and Actions
Policies, frameworks, investments and technology that is needed to minimize the impact of potential floods, changes in precipitation, droughts, rising temperatures, rising sea levels, etc.

Targets
In most cases mitigation actions are expressed as targets that define the measurement goal a country has chosen to track the effectiveness of their climate actions.

Finance/Support
This can include financial plans or requests for financing, technology transfer, etc. necessary for either Mitigation or Adaptation actions outlined in each country’s NDC.

UNFCCC
Source: UNFCCC
2015: Communicate new or updated NDCs and long-term strategies
2020: Communicate new NDCs
2023: Global stocktake
2025: Communicate new NDCs
2028: Global stocktake
2030: Communicate new NDCs
2050: Net-zero emissions & climate resilience

Source: WRI
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2030 unconditional target(s)</th>
<th>2016 NDC</th>
<th>2021 NDC</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country’s formulation of the target</td>
<td>26.28% below 2005 by 2025 (incl. LULUCF)</td>
<td>50-52% below 2005 by 2030 (incl. LULUCF)</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absolute emissions level [excl. LULUCF]</td>
<td>5,269 – 5,744 MtCO2e in 2025</td>
<td>3,675 – 4,178 MtCO2e in 2030</td>
<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emissions compared to 1990 and 2010 [excl. LULUCF]</td>
<td>11.18% below 1990 levels by 2025, 18.25% below 2010 levels by 2025</td>
<td>35.43% below 1990 levels by 2030, 40.47% below 2010 levels by 2030</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAT rating</td>
<td>Critically insufficient</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net zero-emissions target</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>The US announced in January 2021 its aim towards net-zero emissions by 2050, no official target has been submitted to the UNFCCC</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alignment of NDC to net zero-emissions target</td>
<td>Unclear</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sector coverage</td>
<td>Economy-wide</td>
<td>Economy-wide</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Separate target for LULUCF</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gas coverage</td>
<td>All greenhouse (GHG) gases</td>
<td>All greenhouse (GHG) gases</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target type</td>
<td>Absolute emissions reduction below a base year</td>
<td>Absolute emissions reduction below a base year</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Clarity of implementation plan</td>
<td>On 4 November 2019, the Trump Administration formally notified the United Nations that the US would withdraw from the Paris Agreement, nullifying the target.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>Explanation why the target is a fair contribution towards the global goal</td>
<td>Yes. The US references policy action taken to reduce its emissions to achieve the 2020 target of reducing emissions in the range of 17% below 2005 levels. The NDC highlights the higher ambition needed to achieve the 2025 target beyond the 2020 target.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Followed guidance on information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs in Decision 4/CMA.1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
FIGURE 1
New US target compared to updated NDCs from other advanced economies

NDC reductions from a 1990, 2005, and 2010 base year for selected economies

Source: Rhodium Group, UNFCCC. Assumes LULUCF included in all base years. *Upper end of NDC presented as a range.
The United States was still increasing emissions until the mid-2000s, while Europe took earlier action. Still-developing countries are continuing to increase their emissions, and haven’t committed to absolute cuts by 2030.

Source: Rhodium Group
2030 EMISSIONS GAP

CAT projections and resulting emissions gap in meeting the 1.5°C Paris Agreement goal

Pledges & Targets

Emissions gap in 2030 for 1.5°C

Old

New (indicative)

New NDCs to date narrow the gap in 2030 by around 2.6–3.7 GtCO₂e or 12–14%

1.5°C Paris compatible

Sept 2020 update

April 2021 estimate

Global GHG emissions CtCO₂e/year


Historical incl. LULUCF

Climate Action Tracker
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status of 2030 Paris Agreement targets for G20 countries</th>
<th>April 2021</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>➡️ SUBMITTED A STRONGER TARGET</td>
<td>ARGENTINA</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNITED KINGDOM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EU-27 (FRANCE, ITALY, GERMANY)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNITED STATES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➡️ PROPOSED A STRONGER TARGET</td>
<td>CANADA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CHINA</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>JAPAN</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SOUTH AFRICA</td>
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<tr>
<td>➡️ NEW 2030 TARGETS PROMISED IN 2021</td>
<td>SOUTH KOREA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➡️ SUBMITTED IDENTICAL OR WEAKER TARGET</td>
<td>AUSTRALIA</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BRAZIL</td>
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<td></td>
<td>MEXICO</td>
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<td></td>
<td>RUSSIAN FED.</td>
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<tr>
<td>➡️ WILL NOT PROPOSE A MORE AMBITIOUS TARGET</td>
<td>INDONESIA</td>
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<tr>
<td>➡️ HAVE NOT MADE AN ANNOUNCEMENT</td>
<td>INDIA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SAUDI ARABIA</td>
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<td>TURKEY</td>
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