



For Revising Nationally Determined Contributions

The quality assurance checklist is designed to support governments, civil society, and other stakeholders to reflect on the revision processes and outcomes of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The guiding questions are derived from the Paris Agreement, the [IPCC Special Report on Warming of 1.5°C](#), and [the WRI-UNDP Guidance on the NDC revision process](#), as well as [UNDP's experience](#) supporting countries on NDC design, revision and implementation.

This checklist outlines three dimensions that UNDP considers essential for ambitious and robust NDCs.

- 1. Country ownership and inclusiveness:** the engagement of society and political stakeholders at all levels during the revision process, and the inclusion of engagement outcomes in the NDC.
- 2. Robustness and ambition:** the clarity, transparency, and understanding of mitigation and/or adaptation components, cross-cutting issues communicated, and the enhancement of key targets and measures in the enhanced NDC.
- 3. Feasibility:** key enabling conditions for implementing NDCs, i.e., finance mobilization, technology transfer and institutional capacity building.

This checklist provides a comprehensive set of guiding questions; however, this **does not** imply that countries are expected to fulfill all elements covered in these questions. The checklist is partially inspired by (but does not replace) the official guidance related to NDCs contained in the relevant UNFCCC decisions. Given the nationally determined nature of NDCs, each country has its own starting point and will define a unique roadmap for the revision process that takes into consideration the national context and capacities.

Although the elements are not mandatory for countries to include in their NDCs (e.g. adaptation communication), or may be communicated in other reporting mechanisms, this checklist offers a helpful guide for consideration throughout NDC revision and implementation.

This is a **living document** which will be used by UNDP Country Offices delivering NDC support as part of UNDP's [Climate Promise](#) initiative. It will be updated based on feedback from countries, accordingly.

DIMENSION ONE: COUNTRY OWNERSHIP AND INCLUSIVENESS

This section focuses on efforts to strengthen country ownership through an inclusive engagement process, taking a whole-of-government approach, and engaging across society in the design and implementation of the enhanced NDC. Key considerations include:

	Yes	Partially	No
1. Have the key ministries, departments and agencies of government played an active role in revising the NDC?			
2. Have different government institutions from relevant sectors , at both the national and sub-national levels, been engaged and consulted on the NDC revision?			
3. Have private sector, civil society organizations, academia, vulnerable and marginalized groups, and other relevant stakeholders , been meaningfully engaged and consulted on the NDC revision? Has this engagement taken place at both the national and sub-national levels?			
4. Does the NDC include targets, measures and policies that are gender-responsive (e.g. gender indicators, mitigation/adaptation gender actions, sectoral measures/targets)?			
5. Does the NDC include targets, measures and policies that are children and/or youth-sensitive , and that address youth-specific needs and roles?			
6. Does the NDC identify steps for an inclusive, just transition of the workforce?			
7. Does the NDC include targets, measures and policies related to vulnerable groups , i.e. those highly impacted by climate and natural hazards, elderly, and indigenous people, etc.? (e.g. co-benefits of adaptation and mitigation measures in the health sector that address the needs of vulnerable groups)			
8. Does the NDC include targeted awareness-raising, advocacy and education related activities?			

1 These considerations can be based on the development of a gender analysis. [Gender Analysis and NDCs: Short Guidance for Government Stakeholders](#)
See more thematic toolkits/resources available at [Climate Promise Resource Portal](#)

DIMENSION TWO: ROBUSTNESS AND AMBITION

This section examines **whether the enhanced NDC is robust**. “Robustness” of NDCs is evaluated based on the clarity and transparency of information communicated. Countries are strongly encouraged to refer to the guidance for the “information for clarity, transparency, and understanding”, in accordance with the UNFCCC COP² decision and further decisions of the CMA^{3,4}, and the section on Communicating an Enhanced NDC Transparently in Accordance with the Paris Rulebook in the WRI-UNDP Guidance⁵.

This section also assists countries in communicating specific targets and measures in their enhanced NDC and indicating how they compare to the previous NDC – **addressing enhanced mitigation ambition and an enhanced adaptation component**, where applicable. At the individual country level, the understanding and narrative of ambition take different forms depending on the circumstances of each country. In this checklist, “enhanced mitigation ambition” is defined as: the enhanced NDC, if fully implemented, results in lower cumulative emissions than the fully implemented initial NDC⁶. While countries are encouraged to report on adaptation under the Paris Agreement, the inclusion of adaptation in the NDCs is voluntary, rendering a wide range of options for enhancement and the absence of a single criterion to evaluate the enhancement of adaptation components. This checklist proposes guiding questions that refer to the progression achieved in terms of updated and/or added information on key elements identified by UNFCCC Decision 9/CMA.1 and elaborated in the section of Designing An Enhanced Adaptation Component of an NDC in the WRI-UNDP Guidance⁷. Key considerations include:

2.1 MITIGATION

2.1.1 Robustness

	Yes	Partially	No
1. Does the NDC include information elements identified in Decision 4/CMA.1 and its annex on clarity, transparency and understanding? (reference point, baseline, etc.)			
2. Has quality assurance and quality control of data, methodologies, and other relevant information when revising the NDC (e.g. technical review) been carried out?			
3. Does the NDC align measures and priorities with long-term mitigation strategies ?			

2 COP: Conference of the Parties

3 CMA: Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement. See Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, decision 4/CMA.1 on NDC guidance and decision 18/CMA.1 on tracking progress.

4 Under the enhanced transparency framework (ETF) established in Paris countries will track progress towards the implementation and achievement of their NDC, replacing the existing measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) system. Therefore, the guiding questions might also be helpful for countries when updating their NDCs, considering how they will report on progress under the ETF.

5 Taryn Fransen et al., *Enhancing NDCs: A Guidance to Strengthening National Climate Plans by 2020* (Washington, DC: World Resource Institute, 2019), 57-63.

6 Taryn Fransen et al., *Enhancing NDCs by 2020: Achieving the Goals of the Paris Agreement* (Washington, DC: World Resources Institute, 2017). doi:10.1163/9789004322714_ccllc_2017-0020-024

7 Ibid., 45-56.

4. Is the NDC based on updated or new information on relevant **sectoral trends**? Does the NDC identify relevant sectoral or development priorities, strategies, policies, or plans?

5. Has the NDC revision process considered how to **track progress** made in implementing and achieving its NDC (e.g. identify the indicators that it selected to track progress, data availability, national institutional arrangements)?

2.1.2 Ambition

1. Does the NDC strengthen and/or add a **GHG target** that results in less cumulative GHG emissions compared to the previous NDC?

2. Has the NDC increased the scope of the **unconditional component** of its mitigation targets, compared to its previous NDC?

3. Does the NDC strengthen or add **sectoral non-GHG target(s)** (e.g., 50% renewable energy to 80%)

4. Does the NDC include information on strengthened or new **policies/actions** for mitigation, compared to the previous NDC?

5. Does the NDC increase the **geographical coverage** since the previous NDC and/or cover the entire geography of the country?

6. Does the NDC increase the **sectoral coverage** since the previous NDC and/or cover **all sectors** (as defined by the IPCC)?

7. Does the NDC increase GHG coverage since its previous NDC and/or cover **all gases** (as defined by the IPCC)?

2.2 ADAPTATION

2.2.1 Robustness

1. Does the NDC include information elements identified in **Decision 9/CMA.1** and its annex on elements of an **adaptation communication**?

2. Does the NDC include clear **adaptation objectives** in line with the Paris Agreement adaptation objectives⁸?

⁸ Paris Agreement. Article 7. p.11

"1. Parties hereby establish the global goal on adaptation of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change, with a view to contributing to sustainable development and ensuring an adequate adaptation response in the context of the temperature goal referred to in Article 2."

Yes Partially No

3. Has **quality assurance and quality control** of data, methodologies, and other relevant information been carried out when revising the adaptation components of NDC (e.g. technical review)?
4. Does the NDC include **quantitative or qualitative targets** on adaptation and provisions for a monitoring and evaluation system for adaptation⁹?

2.2.2 Enhancement

Yes Partially No

1. Does the NDC reflect progress on **adaptation planning** and the linkages between the NDC and the NAP or other adaptation planning process or instrument?
2. Does the NDC include updated or new information on **climate change impacts, risks, or vulnerabilities** (e.g., climate and disaster risk and vulnerability assessments)?
3. Does the NDC include updated or new information on **adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans**, including those resulting in mitigation co-benefits (e.g., sectoral/thematic adaptation actions)?
4. Has the NDC increased the **geographical coverage** of adaptation activities since the previous NDC?
5. Has the NDC increased the **sectoral coverage** of adaptation activities since the previous NDC?
6. Does the NDC include adaptation actions in **new sectors** that are consistent with national and sectoral development priorities?

2.3 CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Yes Partially No

1. Does the NDC align with **national, sectoral, and/or sub-national development strategies/plans**, including the SDG implementation plan/roadmap?
2. Have the **socio-economic impacts** of NDC targets and measures been considered?

⁹ Note that the Enhanced Transparency Framework agreed in Katowice includes guidance for reporting on adaptation (Chapter IV) and support needed and received (Chapter VI)

3. Has the NDC revision process considered the improvement of an **MRV system for financial support**?

4. Has the NDC revision process considered the improvement of an **MRV system related to SDGs and other cross-cutting issues**?
(e.g. indicators, parameters, baseline, and project targets highlight impacts on vulnerable groups such as, youth, women, children, etc.)

DIMENSION THREE: FEASIBILITY

This section aims to provide guidance to determine whether the NDC revision process has undertaken assessments of costs benefits, financing options, and investment opportunities of NDC actions -- for both international and domestic funding from both public and private sources. This section also assists in assessing the institutional, human and technological capacity of Governments required for successful NDC implementation.

3.1 FINANCE, COSTS, AND INVESTMENT

1. Does the NDC include information on the **costs and benefits** of achieving GHG targets, non-GHG targets (such as cross cutting actions, gender, awareness raising, etc), and adaptation policies or actions?

2. Does the NDC include information on the **costs of climate inaction**?

3. Does the NDC include information on the **financing strategy** for achieving targets or implementing specific policies or actions (e.g., mainstreaming climate into national, sectoral, and/or sub-national budgets)?

4. Does the NDC include information on NDC-related **financial mechanisms** established or being developed (e.g., national climate funds, green bonds)?

5. Does the NDC indicate detailed **international grant and/or loan support**?

6. Does the NDC indicate **public funding sources** for reaching identified targets and goals?

Yes Partially No

7. Does the NDC indicate options to leverage existing or potential (local, regional or international) **private sector investments** for reaching identified targets and goals?

8. Does the NDC describe measures that are planned or being implemented to reduce **investor risks and/or remove barriers to finance**?

3.2 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT AND CAPACITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Yes Partially No

1. Does the NDC include information on **institutional arrangements** for NDC implementation with clear roles and responsibilities across key sectors and different levels of government structure?

2. Does the NDC describe **capacity development** efforts for government officials and/or other stakeholders?

3. Are the targets/measures within the NDC supported by **national legislation and/or relevant legal frameworks**?

4. Has the NDC identified **policy, legal and regulatory gaps** (e.g. barriers for implementing adaptation actions)?

5. Does the NDC include **policy recommendations** or potential solutions to address policy/legal/regulatory gaps?

6. Does the NDC include information on **technical assistance needs** either in terms of human resources or technologies?

For feedback and questions, please contact ndcsupport@undp.org