



GUIDE FOR COUNTRY OFFICE ENGAGEMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (NDCs) 3.0

The **Paris Agreement on Climate Change** requires Parties to submit new or updated national climate action plans, the so-called Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) every five years. Nine years after its adoption, many countries are now in the process of revising or updating their NDCs. While climate change threatens livelihoods and human security across the board, women and girls, particularly those who are living in poverty, often face higher risks and greater burdens from climate change. Women are agents of change, yet they are frequently viewed as passive victims who are ‘vulnerable’ to climate change. Parties are required to submit their NDC 3.0, by February 2025, to allow for sufficient time for the preparation of the compilation and synthesis report in advance of CMA7 COP 30 (November 2025).

Mandate

In accordance with the Paris Agreement, each Party is to prepare, communicate and maintain successive NDCs that it intends to achieve and each successive NDC will represent progression reflecting the Party’s highest possible ambition. Moreover, a Party may at any time adjust its existing NDC with a view to enhancing the level of ambition. The communicated NDCs are to be recorded in the NDC registry and are maintained by the Secretariat.

UNFCCC 2021 NDC synthesis report

The report synthesized information from the 168 available nationally determined contributions communicated by 195 Parties to the Paris Agreement and recorded in the registry of nationally determined contributions as of 25 September 2023.

SUMMARY OF NDC REPORT 2021

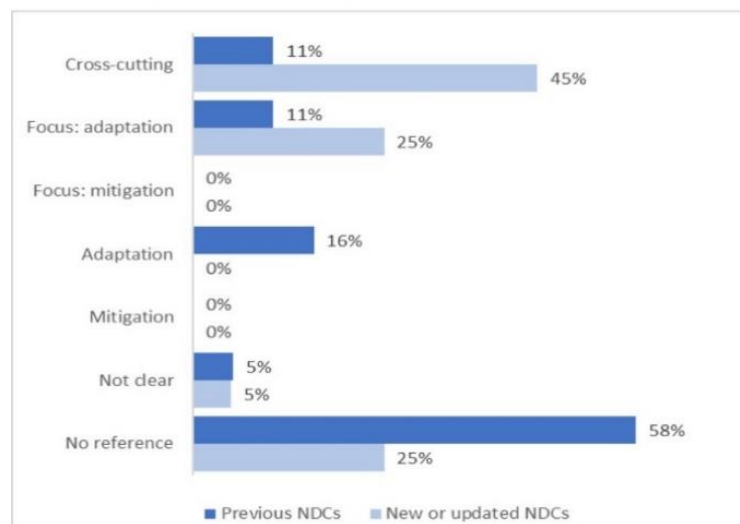
- 48% of Parties indicated that they have integrated their NDC targets, goals and policies into national legislative, regulatory and planning processes as a means of ensuring implementation.
- 65% of Parties highlighted policy coherence and synergies between their domestic mitigation measures and development priorities, which include the SDGs and, for some that submitted new or updated NDCs, LT-LEDS and green recovery from the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.
- 79% of Parties that referred to formal arrangements in place for domestic stakeholder consultation, 93 per cent indicated that they conducted consultations and engagement in an inclusive and participatory manner and 81 per cent of those specifically referenced gender-sensitive consultations.

Gender

Parties are increasingly recognizing gender integration to enhance the ambition and effectiveness of their climate action:

- 79% of Parties provided information related to gender in their NDCs
- 33% affirmed that they would take gender into account in implementing them.
- 38% had not included reference to gender in their previous NDCs, while
- 18% considered gender to a similar extent to previously.

Reference to gender in nationally determined contributions



*Image sourced from UN Climate Change NDC Synthesis Report (2021) (p.22)

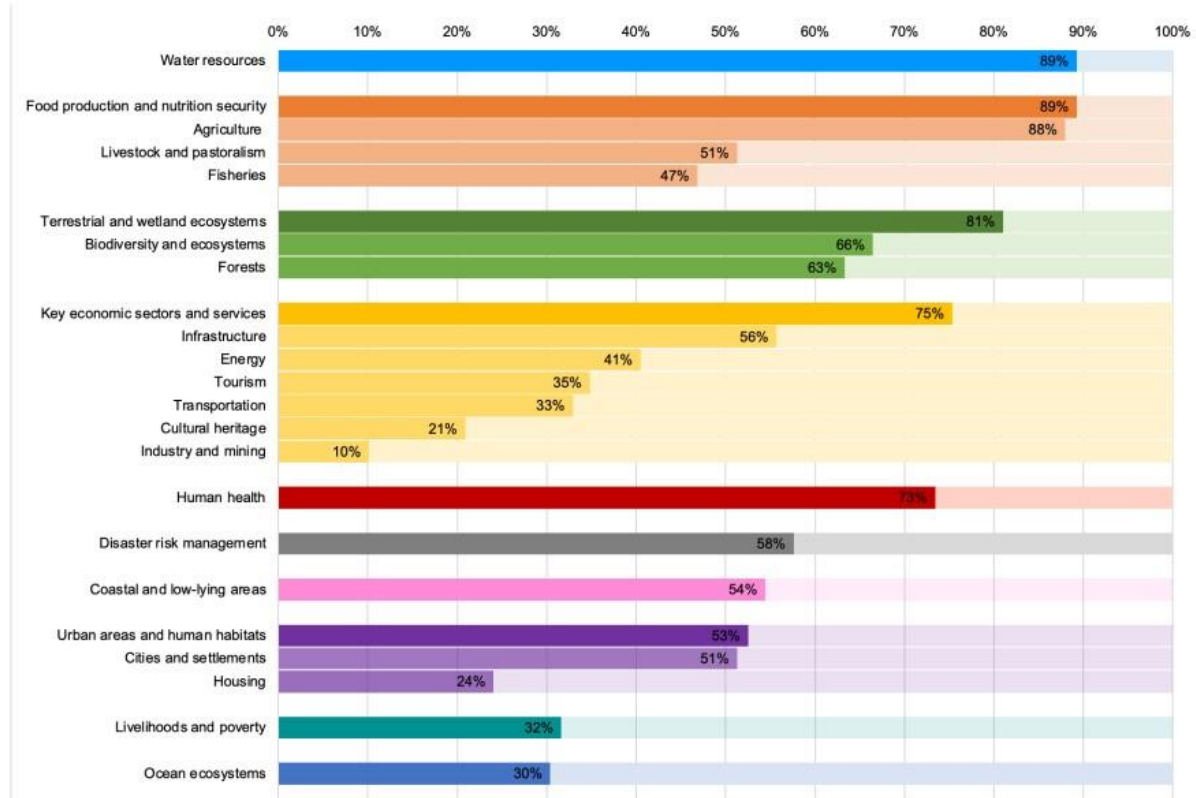
Indigenous people and local communities:

A total of 40% of Parties described the role of local communities and the role, situation and rights of Indigenous Peoples in the adaptation components of their NDCs, describing the specific vulnerabilities of Indigenous Peoples that are particular to their circumstances, the importance of drawing on Indigenous and local knowledge to strengthen climate efforts, and arrangements to enable greater participation in and contributions to climate action by Indigenous Peoples.

Adaptation

- 81% of Parties included an adaptation component in their NDCs and 13 per cent of the adaptation components were designated as adaptation communications. Parties provided information on adaptation-related research; risks and vulnerabilities; adaptation strategies, policies and plans; sectoral adaptation measures; contingency measures; synergies with mitigation and other global frameworks; and monitoring and evaluation of adaptation.
- In comparison with Parties' previous NDCs,(2015) more of the NDCs(2020) contain adaptation information. The adaptation components of the NDCs, where included, indicate an increased focus on national adaptation planning, on the process to formulate and implement NAPs.
- In terms of adaptation priorities, the NDCs illustrate that Parties continue to focus on water resources, food production and nutrition security, terrestrial and wetland ecosystems, key economic sectors and services, and human health; followed by disaster risk management, coastal and low-lying areas, urban areas and human habitats, livelihoods and poverty, and ocean ecosystems (see figure10).

Share of adaptation components of nationally determined contributions referring to specific adaptation priority areas and sectors



*Image sourced from UN Climate Change NDC Synthesis Report (2021) (p.33)

CARE's Recommendations to Advance Gender in NDC 3.0 Process

Countries should make gender referencing a priority and indicate how women are positioned in the NDCs including as a group that is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, as beneficiaries of or participants in projects, programs or policies; as agents of change or as leaders; or as stakeholders i.e. as having a stake in climate change-related decision-making.

Recommendations for How NDCs can Increase Their Focus on Gender

Different countries are now at different stages of mainstreaming gender equality within their NDC Governance, Planning and Implementation Process, and it is to be expected that gender is dealt with

differently in the various NDCs. It is also to be noted that NDCs are not designed to be an all-encompassing planning instrument which spells out all aspects in detail or necessarily references all other relevant existing national plans. Judging the gender performance in the NDCs is therefore not equating the gender-performance of a specific country's overall climate governance and policy approach. However, countries should be encouraged to highlight their approach to gender equality in the NDC in any case. This is clearly the case with the revised NDCs that were submitted in 2020. Countries in the process of revising their NDCs should consider looking at how the countries classified under the role model and progressive groups have not only incorporated gender issues in their revised NDCs but also make provisions for gender responsive budgets, an approach which was conspicuously missing in most of the analyzed revised NDCs.

Refer to page 10 of the [Gender report Card on NDC](#) to see role model countries NDC's to see how gender was taken into account.

Recommendations for Advancing Gender Equality More Substantially in NDCs

These recommendations can be clustered into the three program areas as is currently done under the UNDP NDC Support Programme:

(i) GOVERNANCE

- The revision of NDCs should give reference to women and gender in the context of commitments to mitigation (M), adaptation (A), Loss and Damage (L&D, if addressed), capacity-building, implementation or whether the gender reference is cross-cutting.
- Countries should give gender referencing a priority and indicate how women are positioned in the NDCs including as a group that is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, as beneficiaries of or participants in projects, programs or policies; as agents of change or as leaders; or as stakeholders i.e. as having a stake in climate change related decision-making.
- There is need to design capacity development strategies to yield equitable benefits for women and men and facilitate targeted capacity building for women and women's organizations to enable effective participation in the NDC process.

(ii) PLANNING

- A participatory planning process is an important task which should ensure effective participation of the groups which are particularly vulnerable due to marginalisation or discrimination, including women (and women-led/women's rights organisations), in the NDC process.
- In some of the analyzed NDCs, positively, women are also characterized as beneficiaries of policies or projects. They are portrayed as key stakeholders within a public participation which should be undertaken in a gender-responsive manner. This include integrating the perspectives of women and drawing on their unique adaptation, resilience and also mitigation knowledge and local coping strategies when revising the NDCs.
- While planning for implementation of the revised NDCs it is crucial to pursue gender-responsive budgeting, including planning for how the gender-responsive measures will be financed. From the analyzed NDCs there is almost a complete absence of gender-responsive budgeting. Only Chile's revised NDC mentions that the design and implementation of the NDC will consider fair allocation of charges, costs and benefits, with a focus on gender.
- Women and local minorities should not only be portrayed as victims of climate change but should also be recognized as agents of change, as leaders and as distinct stakeholder groups in the NDC process. Countries should use sex-disaggregated and socially differentiated data, gender sensitive climate vulnerability assessments and inputs from gender and social inclusion experts to inform the NDC revision process.

- During the planning process, a gender and social analysis of climate change policies, programmes and actions should be undertaken to identify gaps and opportunities in relation to integration of gender.

(iii) IMPLEMENTATION AND ENHANCED CLIMATE POLICY INSTRUMENTS

- There should be a participatory and inclusive mechanism or process for monitoring or implementing the NDCs in each country.
- Most of the countries analyzed displayed systems for monitoring or implementation, with most of them categorized under existing national plans or existing national institutions. Besides, some of the countries analyzed proposed to use BURs and National Communications to monitor, implement, and report on the progress of implementation. There should be engagement of the gender-specific institutional arrangements within the government, such as gender focal points across ministries, departments, and agencies with adequate technical capacity and authority for implementation and/ or inclusion of a gender task force.
- There is a need to involve gender experts in the development of M&E frameworks, building on existing systems. The experts should be able to collect, use and apply in planning, monitoring & evaluation gender- and socially differentiated data and indicators in the NDC process. Inclusion of a gender specific indicator in the NDC reporting format would further catalyze attention and proactive inclusion of gender aspects.
- Formulation of a gender-based action plan for the implementation of the NDC is a tool that countries should pursue to ensure gender equality is not just promised on paper.

(iv) OTHER ENABLING FACTORS RELATED TO SUCCESSFUL GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION AMBITION INCLUDE:

- While some NDCs reflect an increase in mitigation ambition, a comprehensive analysis is not available for all countries; those screened with the Climate Action Tracker still show a clear lack of ambition, particularly those from developed countries.
- There is a need to integrate gender equality in the criteria for prioritizing mitigation and adaptation priorities.
- Ensure that both mitigation and adaptation actions address factors which contribute to gender-related structural marginalisation and increased vulnerabilities to climate change and build on existing knowledge and capacities of women and men.
- Developing countries need to be supported with increased and primarily grant-based climate finance from developed countries, in line with the obligations under the Paris Agreement. This will greatly enhance the chance of an ambitious and effective implementation of the NDCs, including their gender aspects.

Additional Tools for Reference

NDC PARTNERSHIP HAS DEVELOPED AND LAUNCHED NDC NAVIGATOR 3.0

The NDC 3.0 Navigator is intended to help countries **identify opportunities to raise ambition in their NDCs 3.0, which are** to be submitted by February 2025 in accordance with Decision 1/CP.21, and Article 4.9 of the **Paris Agreement**. It sets out **examples of impactful opportunities to consider**, anchored in national sustainable development priorities, Paris Agreement goals, and the first Global Stocktake outcome. These examples help ensure that climate change responses are leaving no one behind, and help enhance processes that will accelerate implementation, including engaging All-of-Government and Society, and unlocking finance. (<https://ndcnavigator.org/>)

References and Related Links:

- [CARE Report Card on Where is Gender in the NDCs](#)
- [UNFCCC NDC 2021 Synthesis Report](#)
- [Learn About the NDC 3.0 Navigator](#)
- [CARE Building Forward: Creating a more equitable, gender-just, inclusive and sustainable world](#)

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