

Technical Support for NDC Implementation

Advisory Note no.4

Key steps for planning and implementing "Nationally Determined Contribution" (NDC)



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Key steps for planning and implementing "Nationally Determined Contribution" (NDC)¹

Introduction

After the ratification of the Paris Agreement by most Parties to the UNFCCC many of them are now initiating the implementation processes. However countries are faced with the lack of an official international guidance which has not been provided yet. Even though the implementation process will be specific to each country's conditions and capacities, some approaches and common steps can be outlined in order to plan and carry out an effective implementation of the NDCs. Many international organizations, including UNEP, UDP, UNDP and UNFCCC (who are jointly producing a guidance document which will be published in May) are now in the process of developing guidelines for implementing NDCs. As a contribution to guide our early mover partner countries, UNEP DTU Partnership and its technical support team has developed this initial short text, which intends to outline some common steps towards implementing the NDCs.

Typical implementation steps

Some common steps suitable to any approach for implementing NDCs are:

1. Reviewing the iNDC
2. Preparing for the implementation of the NDC
3. Developing an NDC implementation plan and financial strategy
4. Implementing the NDC and monitoring its progress
5. Reviewing the current NDC implementation strategy
6. Planning for future NDCs

1. Reviewing the NDC

¹ This note has been adapted from a document prepared by Mr Faouzi Senhaji under the INDC project.

The accounting period, defined as the implementation period, for the first NDC will be 2021-2025. As most of the NDC processes leading to a final NDC document would have been prepared few years before the start of the accounting period, countries may wish to review this document before planning its implementation.

This first step consists, thus, of reviewing the NDC in terms of ambition, including costs and implications, transparency, as well as in terms of alignment with national and sectoral development priorities. It is advisable to review if the stated objectives of the NDC are aligned with the national development plans and sectoral plans/strategies in the light of the country's sustainable development objectives, as well as the new national and international contexts, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). All the stakeholders expected to play a role in the implementation of the NDC should be involved in this step (e.g. representatives from the public and private sectors, civil society, etc.).

This step will allow approving or amending the commitments identified in the original INDC/NDC document. If a formal national process has been used for developing the INDC, the same or a more streamlined process can be conducted to perform this review.

2. Preparing for the implementation of the NDC

Given that the objectives established in the NDCs are commitments made by the countries and that the countries shall account for their NDCs on a 5 years basis, each country should plan the NDC implementation once the NDC document has been finalized. The implementation of NDC can start by establishing an organizational structure with clear roles and responsibilities. Determined teams or units may be made responsible for developing specific strategies, actions, programs and/or projects in order to achieve specific stated contributions. For this step the following activities may be considered:

a. Establish or nominate a coordinating entity and strengthen regulatory and stakeholders capacities

To ensure leadership and ownership by relevant stakeholders, it is important to establish suitable arrangements, clear roles, responsibilities and procedures. These will of course rely on the country capacities and national context, but should include the identification and establishment of a coordinating entity that will be responsible for conducting and coordinating the preparation and planning process for the NDC implementation. The choice and/or the composition of the institution should meet criteria that would ensure the effectiveness of its responsibilities:

- i. Reviewing the regulatory requirements to implement the stated contributions
- ii. Ensuring coordination within and between the various ministerial departments.
- iii. Defining the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder, including those to ensure the enabling conditions for smooth implementation
- iv. Coordinating between the national, and subnational levels.
- v. Assessing the human resources, expertise and capacity needs required to conduct the preparation and planning process for the implementation of the NDC. A capacity building program should be established.

b. Ensure the involvement of all key stakeholders in the implementation of the NDC's policies, programs by raising awareness

To ensure a successful implementation of the NDC, it is essential to involve all the stakeholders from the planning phase. In this sense, raising awareness activities targeting specific stakeholders groups (public, private and civil society) should be organized by the coordinating institution. The three levels global, national and local should be considered. These activities can be organized as:

- i. Media campaigns and other means of raising the level of information and awareness of specific actors and the general public.
- ii. Consultations and dialogues with ministerial departments, economic operators in the public and private sectors, and civil society (NGOs), as well as provincial and local authorities.

c. Undertake legal and technical preparations as reference inputs for developing the implementation plan

The technical dimension could include:

- i. A summary of the baseline situation (existing plans and programs, GHG inventories completed, sectoral analyses, national and provincial adaptation plans, information on needs and barriers identified, etc.).
- ii. Preparation of technical prerequisites for mitigation actions (establishment of BAU scenarios and mitigation potentials, definition of milestones for monitoring, distribution of mitigation targets, definition of GHG inventory levels to be achieved, ...).
- iii. Preparation of technical prerequisites for adaptation actions (assessment of adaptation needs, definition of baselines, risk analysis, etc.)

The regulatory needs, constraints or barriers could include:

Depending on the type of contribution submitted to the UNFCCC, the countries may be faced with the need to review the regulatory frameworks in order to create the adequate enabling conditions for the implementation. For example, regulations related to public-private partnership, environmental accounting/reporting, eco-audits, management or those related to change incentives, such as removing subsidies and creating fuel taxes and reconsidering subsidies on public transportation and clean fuel, liability rules, marketable permits e.g. tradeable "emission reduction" credits, etc. It could also be the case of revisiting regulations forcing specific behaviours, such as emission standards, 'licensing/permitting (certificates and regulations concerning new buildings and existing buildings), and bans (Landfill ban on biodegradable waste or untreated waste).

3. Developing an NDC implementation plan and financial strategy

Once the technical and legal prerequisites for mitigation and adaptation actions have been established, an implementation plan and a financial strategy can be developed. This strategy aims to identify financial sources and plan the raising of financial resources needed for the implementation of the NDC actions. This step should be participatory and involve relevant stakeholders. The following activities may be considered:

a. Developing a plan for the implementation of the NDC

- i. Identify and prioritize the mitigation and adaptation actions as well as the measures to put in place to support these actions.
- ii. Establish procedures and criteria for assessing the impacts, costs, feasibility, etc. of the actions.
- iii. Develop a plan including details for each action (timing, costs, key stakeholders, etc.) as well as for the monitoring of the NDC.
- iv. Establish measurement, monitoring and reporting procedures and protocols of the specific NDC actions.
- v. Endorse the implementation plan by all stakeholders.
- vi. Endorse the implementation plan by policy makers.

b. Developing a financial strategy

- i. Estimate the costs for each action and total costs for implementing the NDC (including management, monitoring activities...).
- ii. Assess the share of public and private funding, and additional resources required.
- iii. Engage the private sector by supporting the development of bankable projects, and addressing the issue of risks.
- iv. Develop strategies and proposals for raising international support (including bilateral and multilateral funding sources).
- v. Endorse the financial strategy by all public authorities (in particular Ministry of finance) and private sector stakeholders.

4. Implementing the NDC and monitoring its progress

Once the implementation plan has been established and funding has been secured, implementation can begin. Together with the NDC implementation, the monitoring by the mandated institutions may start.

- i. After having identified the gaps and needs in previous steps, establish enabling policy and regulatory framework for the implementation (e.g. appropriate laws and regulations, etc.).
- ii. Developing a portfolio of actions and implement the actions linked to the NDC mitigation and adaptation goals.
- iii. Creating / strengthening data collection and monitoring systems (build on existing systems).
- iv. Ensuring mandated institutions carry out their specific task for the NDC monitoring (e.g. data collection, QC / QA, etc.),
- v. Preparing information and reports in a transparent manner for national and international reporting requirements.

5. Reviewing the current NDC implementation strategy

The monitoring of the NDC should be used as a tool to evaluate the implementation of the NDC and related actions. This evaluation should take place at a technical level and at a policy level. Therefore, key stakeholders involved in the implementation of the actions but also decisions makers (at local, sectoral and national levels) should be kept aware of the results of such evaluation. Corrective measures should then be taken to adjust the implementation when needed. This could include, for example:

- i. Amending the implementation plan based on the impacts.
- ii. Making changes to existing actions and policies with a view to improving efficiency.
- iii. Designing possible new actions and policies.

6. Planning for future NDCs

As per Paris Agreement, countries are required to submit an NDC on a 5 years basis. The different NDCs should show increasing ambition in terms of commitments and progress. In order to be ready for the next NDC processes and to increase effectiveness of these processes, countries should:

- i. Institutionalize the development of the NDC as well as the processes related to the preparation of the NDC implementation plan and to the NDC implementation.
- ii. Develop (if not yet done) long-term mitigation and adaptation strategy and update it on a regular basis.
- iii. Evaluate additional options for mitigation and adaptation actions on a regular basis.
