

Note on INDC and way forward in Paris Agreement

The note outlines the key elements in the Paris Agreement and the Adopting Decision (Decision 1/CP.21) on how the INDCs would be taken forward once the Agreement comes into force. The note covers following three areas:

- (i) The finalization process of INDCs under the Agreement.
- (ii) The process for development of NDC content.
- (iii) Reporting on NDCs.

Finalizing INDCs

- (i) The content of NDC is not clearly defined and left open. Mitigation: Article 4.2 clarifies that NDC will include mitigation contribution. Adaptation: Article 4.10 states countries can provide a periodic update on adaptation (as per details in Art 4.9) which could be communicated along with NDC or through other means (such as National Communication, Adaptation plan, etc).
- (ii) Decision para 13 calls upon those countries who have not submitted their INDCs to do so "well in advance of" COP22 (Nov 2016). At the same time Decision para 22 calls upon countries to submit their First mitigation NDC along with instrument of ratification/accession/approval. Thus the outermost timeline for countries to submit first NDC is when they ratify/accede/approve the Agreement.
- (iii) As per Decision paragraph 22, the INDCs submitted by the Parties shall be considered as the first NDC on mitigation, unless countries choose to submit a revised one.
- (iv) Adopting Decision is silent on the adaptation component but as INDC are deemed as first NDCs, those countries that submitted an adaptation component to the INDC, are deemed to have submitted the periodic update on adaptation.

The process for development of NDC content.

- (i) Mitigation: Adhoc Group on Paris Agreement (APA)¹ is tasked with developing the features of NDC to ensure clarity as well as information to be provided by Parties in the NDCs (Decision paragraph 26 and 28). The features and information relate to mitigation alone as the decision paragraphs are under the mitigation section.
- (ii) Decision paragraph 42 requests the Adaptation Committee and the LDC expert group (LEG) to develop modalities to recognize adaptation efforts of developing countries. This could be a vehicle for developing information on the adaptation contribution.
- (iii) The requirements will be adopted by the first meeting of MoPPA (meeting of Parties to Paris Agreement). The earliest likely year for such a meeting is 2017 (such a meeting can happen only after the agreement comes into force). The information of features and information requirement thus will be available at the earliest in 2018.

Reporting on NDCs

- (i) Article 13 speaks to Transparency of contributions by countries. Article 13.5 on transparency of action states that reporting should provide clarity on progress made in achieving mitigation and adaptation actions under NDCs. Article 13.5 talks to transparency of support, both, provided and received.
- (ii) Article 13.5 makes submission on information on mitigation implementation mandatory. Provision of information on adaptation is voluntary as per Art 13.6.
- (iii) Article 13.7 makes it mandatory for developed countries to provide information on support provided, whereas, information on support received by developing countries is not mandatory (Art 13.8)
- (iv) APA has been mandated to develop the guidelines for reporting which will be adopted at First MoPPA. As mentioned earlier the earliest when such guidelines will be available is 2018.
- (v) These guidelines will imply revision in guidelines for BUR and NCs.

Focus of NDC work for UNEP

- (i) The work of UNEP should be guided by the fact that: (i) there is no immediate requirement for countries to re-submit the INDCs as NDCs and in view that the informational requirements and features of NDCs would be clarified earliest by 2018; and the countries are called upon to submit an new NDC in 2020 for period 2030 goal, and an updated INDC, if countries choose to, where country INDC timeframe was 2030.
- (ii) UNEP INDC work should focus on two time frames the short term (2016 to 2017), and medium term (2018 - 2019).
- (iii) The short term should focus on building the institutional arrangements and required capacities to prepare the institutional framework for developing, implementing and reporting on NDCs. This is important as the countries would be required to submit NDCs every 5 years. Such institutional development should include:
 - a. Formalizing the approach used by countries in developing their INDCs and strengthening them. This will formalize the process of NDC development with the involvement of key government institutions (national and sub-national) as well as involvement of non-governmental stakeholders.
 - b. Data collection and collation for preparation of NDCs.
 - c. Capacities for analysis of information and developing BAU scenarios as well as identification of mitigation opportunities and adaptation requirements.



- d. Main focus should be on adaptation, as there is significant lack of capacities in countries as well as lack of clear methods and approaches for adaptation needs assessments.
- (iv) Guidelines and methodologies for analysis and development of climate action plans. UNEP should also focus on inputting to the UNFCCC systems guidelines for information content of NDCs as well as reporting requirements based on different types of mitigation and adaptation contributions.
- (v) Medium term should focus on using the capacities built to update the initial INDCs as well as developing specific implementation plans for actions to achieve the contributions.

ⁱ AP(P)A in one of the Indian languages means father, very appropriate.