

COUNTRIES WITH NO OR INSIGNIFICANT NDC UPDATES

COP26 BRIEF – NOVEMBER 10TH 2021

Summary

There is an urgent need to close the 2030 emissions gap and there are calls for a high-level process in 2022 to address this.

In Paris in 2015 it was agreed that all countries should submit enhanced nationally determined contributions (NDCs) by 2020 (now 2021 due to COVID-19).

However, many countries – at least 53 – covering at least 57% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions either did not significantly enhance the ambition of their NDC, resubmitted the same NDC or did not submit an updated NDC at all.

- 10 countries accounting for 45% of global emissions and 45% of the 2030 emissions gap have submitted updated NDCs with new 2030 targets but without a significant enhancement of ambition – Brazil, China, Ethiopia, India, Philippines, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Tunisia, Viet Nam
- 4 countries accounting for 5% of global emissions and 5.2% of the 2030 emissions gap resubmitted the same 2030 target in NDC update – Australia, Indonesia, Mexico, Singapore
- 39 countries accounting for 7.1 % of global emissions and greater than 3.5% of the 2030 emissions gap have not submitted an updated NDC.

Overview

Countries below are a non-exhaustive list of those that

- (1) submitted an NDC update with a new target but without a significant increase in 2030 ambition,
- (2) resubmitted the same 2030 target, or
- (3) did not update their NDCs.

This brief focuses on the countries covered by the Climate Action Tracker (CAT). Non-CAT countries that submitted updated NDCs were not extensively assessed.

Note: The shares of the remaining emissions gap for countries are computed based on the currently submitted NDCs. If the NDC value is higher than the upper range of the current policy projections we use the current policy projections to not account for “hot air” in the target.

Submitted updated NDCs with new 2030 target but without a significant enhancement of ambition

10 countries accounting for 45% of global emissions and also 45% of the 2030 emissions gap:

- **Brazil** continues to obfuscate with creative accounting tricks. While the headline reduction target has increased from 43% to 50%, changes in the baseline mean that this target is still less ambitious than the country's first NDC on an absolute basis.
- **China** On 28 October 2021, China submitted their updated NDC to the UNFCCC; however, this only reaffirmed its existing target announced in December 2020. Some small changes from the original NDC are the commitments to:
 - peak Chinese emissions before 2030, compared to the previous pledge of around 2030
 - lower CO₂ emissions per unit of GDP by over 65% compared to between 60-65%
 - increase share of primary energy supply from non-fossil sources to 25% compared to 20% originally
 - increase forest stock volume by 6 million m³ compared to 4.5 million m³.

These changes except for the wording of the 2030 emissions peak were already announced in 2020.

- **Ethiopia** While Ethiopia's updated NDC increases the ambition of its conditional target and submits an unconditional target for the first time, these targets are still far above current policies so are not expected to drive real world action.
- **India** At the World Leaders Summit at COP26, Prime Minister Modi announced updated 2030 targets and a 2070 net zero target; however, India has not submitted an updated NDC so details are limited. While these targets are an improvement, they are not ambitious enough as they hardly bring India's emissions below where they are heading anyway under current policies.
- **Philippines** increased its conditional target from 70% to 75% below BAU; and has proposed an unconditional target in its updated NDC for the first time. The unconditional target is well above emissions projections under current policies, and thus does not strengthen the country's own ambition.
- **Russia** submitted an updated NDC with a new 2030 emissions target to the UNFCCC in November 2020. The update did not strengthen the country's 2030 target in any real sense, as it is higher than Russia's own 2030 emissions projections under current policies. The new target is 30% below 1990 levels, the old target was 25-30% below 1990 levels.
- **Saudi Arabia** submitted an updated NDC with a seemingly stronger target, although it is difficult to assess this, as it has not communicated the baseline emissions upon which the reduction is based. The updated NDC retains its 'escape clause': the emissions reduction pledge is contingent on continued and significant oil and gas exports, without which Saudi Arabia reserves itself the right to revisit its target.
- **Switzerland** updated its 2030 target from 50% reduction below 1990 levels to at least 50% below 1990 levels (not considered by CAT as an increase in ambition).
- **Tunisia** updated its NDC with a small increase in ambition, 45% reduction in emissions intensity by 2030 instead of 41%.
- **Viet Nam** updated its NDC with a stronger target, but target still projected to easily be met under current policies, therefore not an increase in ambition.

Resubmitted the same 2030 target in NDC update

4 countries accounting for 5% of global emissions and 5.2% of the 2030 emissions gap

- **Australia** recommunicated their original target in their updated NDC, submitted to the UNFCCC on 28 October 2021. In the update, the government claims they will overachieve their target by up to 9%. However, overachieving a target does not count as a commitment to a higher target.
- **Indonesia** kept its NDC unchanged in the 2021 submission.
- **Mexico** submitted its updated NDC on 30 December 2020: its targets, both conditional and unconditional, remained unchanged, while its emissions projections under business-as-usual (BAU) continue to increase. This reduces the country's mitigation ambition in absolute levels.
- **Singapore** kept the same level of NDC ambition, just changed form, from emissions intensity to absolute cap.

Has not submitted an updated NDC (non-exhaustive)

Covered by the Climate Action Tracker:

2 countries accounting for 2.7% of global emissions and 3.5% of the 2030 emissions gap

- **Iran** (still hasn't ratified Paris Agreement)
- **Kazakhstan**

Not covered by the Climate Action Tracker:

37 countries accounting for 4.4% of global emissions

- Afghanistan
- Algeria
- Azerbaijan
- Bahamas
- Bolivia
- Botswana
- Central African Republic
- Cook Islands
- Cote d'Ivoire
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Djibouti
- Dominica
- El Salvador
- Egypt
- Equatorial Guinea

- Eritrea
- Gabon
- Guatemala
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Kiribati
- Madagascar
- Micronesia
- Mozambique
- Niger
- Niue
- Palau
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Serbia
- Syria
- Thailand
- Timor-Leste
- Turkmenistan
- Tuvalu
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Uruguay
- Venezuela