



GLOBAL LEARNING EVENT 2016

Linking (I)NDCs to national development strategies and other climate plans

AGENDA | 12-14 SEPTEMBER 2016



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1. Introduction

After COP21, Governments have to translate their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) into concrete and ambitious mitigation and adaptation policies and programs. This paper is about how to create synergies between the (I)NDCs¹ and other national climate and sustainable development plans. The main objective is to present the main **challenges and opportunities** for LDCs and SIDS arising from the synergies between climate change and development goals by aligning national strategies and plans, including **understanding, enhancement and implementation** of (I)NDCs. In particular, this paper aims to generate and facilitate a dialogue and exchange of experience among GCCA+ countries/stakeholders on challenges and opportunities related to the implementation of (I)NDCs and other climate plans, while contributing to sustainable development goals.

2. Context

To date, 190 Parties, accounting for approximately 97% of global emissions, have submitted their INDC in the context of the Paris Agreement. All INDCs include mitigation measures and many also include adaptation actions². The INDCs are to become **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs)** at the time when the Party ratifies the Paris Agreement. A country may also improve its (I)NDC at the time of ratification, or at any time after that. All Parties that have joined the Paris Agreement are required to prepare, communicate and maintain successive NDCs that represent a progression of efforts over time as indicated in Articles 3 to 4 of the Agreement.

In addition, on 25 September 2015 the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development setting out the new global framework to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development by 2030. The 2030 Agenda is based on **17 new Sustainable Development Goals** and 169 associated targets with the aim to integrate and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda will require action from all countries, in particular in the area of climate change as identified in **Goal 13 'Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact'**.

LDCs and SIDS are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and variability and although their contribution to GHG reduction is minimal, they are strongly committed to the Paris Agreement. This is confirmed by the fact that almost all Parties that have ratified the Paris Agreement up to date belong to the SIDS and LDCs. With the adoption of the Paris Agreement, (I)NDCs are becoming the cornerstones of climate action for the next decades.

¹ Where not otherwise specified, in the context of this paper the term (I)NDCs refers indistinctly to INDCs and NDCs.

² Some Parties, including the EU, chose to communicate their adaptation undertakings through another channel, such as the NAP, NAPA, National Communication or a dedicated submission to the UNFCCC. Hereunder "NDC implementation" is understood in a broad sense as covering also the implementation of national adaptation undertakings even where not captured in the (I)NDC document.

The (I)NDCs represent an **unprecedented level of global commitment to climate action**. Yet we know already that stronger action will be required over time to try to keep the global temperature increase in check and enhance climate resilience. In this context, a **prompt start** in implementing the NDCs will create opportunities for fulfilling objectives ahead of schedule and for achieving more later on, in line with the global long term goal. Early action greatly affects the long term global emission trajectory and vulnerabilities to the impacts of climate change.

INDCs also enjoy an **unprecedented level of political ownership**, with over 150 Heads of State and Government having travelled to Paris to present their national contribution. In many countries, the preparation of the INDC was the first ever attempt to plan climate action in an integrated way. Yet, the reality is that the INDC preparation and submission process in many SIDS and LDCs was not always a straightforward undertaking. Many governments were **under high pressure to deliver** before COP21 in Paris and especially in SIDS and LDCs often the INDC submission process was a one spot funded exercise that did not cover any follow-up/implementation support. The result is that many INDCs were prepared in a rush, without a deep assessment of available data, technical options, impacts, financial and support needs as well as wide stakeholders consultations. In this context, some countries have opted for highly optimistic targets in hope of seizing the attention of the donor community, whereas others have been excessively cautious. Moreover, in some capital cities, there is a sense of fatigue with “fast and furious” strategizing in response to international injunctions.

According to the UNFCCC Synthesis Report on the aggregate effect of the INDCs released in May 2016³, the following trends can be identified:

- Countries are shifting climate action from project/programme action into economy-wide policies and objectives are increasing;
- Low-emission and climate-resilient development is introduced in national climate change policy and political agendas;
- Multilateral cooperation to achieve climate change goals and to raise ambition in the future is increasing.

3. GCCA experience, lessons learnt

A year on after INDC submissions, countries are starting to implement their (I)NDC at different pace and with different approaches, based on their political history and traditions, national circumstances and capabilities, and elaborating on earlier achievements (CDM projects, NAMAs, NAPs, etc.).

Some good practices are starting to emerge, including:

- Housing climate policy coordination in a cross-cutting body that is better able to influence policy in major sectors of the economy, such as in the office of the Head of State or Government (e.g. in the Philippines), in a Planning Department (e.g. in China, Indonesia), or an ad-hoc inter-Ministerial Commission (e.g. in Colombia).

³ Aggregate effect of the intended nationally determined contributions: an update, FCCC/CP/2016/2, Synthesis report by the secretariat, 2 May 2016, <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/cop22/eng/02.pdf>

- Focusing not so much on raising funds for projects dedicated to climate action, but rather on engaging with government departments, companies and stakeholders in sectors that need to transition into a low-emission resilient development pathway and help mainstreaming climate action into sectoral policies and investments.

The table below provides a few success stories regarding how existing processes and experiences can help the implementation of (I)NDCs and their integration with other climate change initiatives in LDCs and SIDS.

Seychelles

- Technology needs assessment (TNA) with the view to reach INDC targets
 - TNC and TNA being implemented over similar timeframes
 - Climate modeling using dynamic downscaling used to inform national (sectoral and cross-sectoral) and sub-national analyses (vulnerability assessments) concerning the impacts of CC/V
 - Development of Technology Action Plans (TAPs) to support a Low-carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) and National Adaptation Plan (NAP)
 - The criteria and indicators (economic, social, environmental and governance) for prioritizing mitigation and adaptation technologies in the TNA process used as a Measurement, Reporting, and Verification system
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Ethiopia

- INDC integrated in the Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) (national development vision)
 - Climate resilient strategies developed for agriculture, forest, water, irrigation and energy
 - Moving towards programmatic largescale planning
 - Mobilising finance from a diversified pool of funding
 - CRGE Facility to play a critical role in resource mobilisation and improved programming of resources
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Mali

- Innovative measures and mechanisms for the integration of climate change into development planning at the local level
 - Integrated vulnerability analysis using 'climate proofing' method
 - Ensuring sustainable funding of climate change-related activities by providing incentives for the private sector, supporting the different actors in acquiring national and international climate-change related funds, detecting investment gaps in the private sector and supporting the required investments
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ASEAN

- Sustainable agriculture practices such as soil management resilient and adaptive to climate change
- Policy framework should reflect existing knowledge about good management practices for soil and nutrient resources
- Implementation at national level performed by designated national taskforces undertaking wide consultations with NGOs, farmers, private agencies, universities and government sectors

LOCAL

- Local authorities in LDCs identifying climate change adaptation responses meeting local needs
- Mechanism to integrate climate change adaptation into local governments' planning and budgeting systems
- Adaptation measures financed by performance-based grants for climate resilience
- Mainstream the performance-based grant approach into policies and laws relating to decentralisation

4. Way ahead

To take the NDCs forward, countries are facing common challenges, including:

- Further embedding the NDC into the national development strategy and the sustainable development goals;
- Increasing awareness and ownership of the NDCs across branches of government, in parliaments, and with national civil societies and private sector stakeholders;
- Prioritizing and organising deliverables including legislative acts and institutional arrangements;
- Translating high-level targets into actionable roadmaps and bankable projects;
- Mobilising finance from the national budget, private investors and international sources of support including EU aid instruments and the GCF;
- Managing data and information to enable and facilitate NDC implementation, monitor impacts, demonstrate results and share good practices.

The table below presents further challenges and opportunities on the understanding and implementation of (I)NDCs⁴.

⁴ Analysis of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), USAID, RALI, IBF, June 2016; Converting INDCs into action, CCAP, November 2015; INDC analysis: an overview of the forest sector, WWF, 2016; The agriculture sectors in the INDCs: analysis, FAO, 15 June 2016; (I)NDC adaptation component and NAP, Climate Change Policy Brief, GIZ, June 2016.

CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES
Gaps and issues of consistency, quality, clarity and completeness of data used	National scope to drive actions at the local level
Different ways to express the (I)NDCs, including timeframes and reference years, diverse typology of adaptation and/or mitigation targets, sectors and gases covered	Keeping up political momentum at the national level
Conditional vs. unconditional contributions	Inclusion of a longer-term vision for low-emission climate resilient development
Uncertainties around UNFCCC rules for understanding and accounting (I)NDCs	Strengthening climate change legislation
Identify priority areas of implementation	Leveraging private sector interest/involvement on climate change actions
National consultation and interdisciplinary coordination	INDC preparation as catalyst for national climate action
Difficult to assess financial and support needs	Inducing long-term changes in key economic drivers
Mobilising finance from diverse sources (role private sector limited)	Anchor INDCs and climate plans in a broader country development strategy and make the case for additional replenishments
Developing high-quality investment proposals capable of attracting funding	Common determination to strengthen national adaptation efforts
Coordination at the level of national implementing institutions	Moving to full-scale planning and implementation of adaptation and strengthening and scaling up existing efforts
Lack of quantitative indicators/tools to measure the adequacy and effectiveness of planning and implementation	Information on planning processes
	INDCs linked with development priorities, including social and economic development as well as poverty eradication

Actions that could help SIDS and LDCs to effectively implement the Paris Agreement and (I)NDCs range from technology, capacity building and financial support to be provided. An indicative list of issues is provided in the table below.

IMPLEMENTING (I)NDCS AND MAINSTREAMING INTO DEVELOPMENT POLICY PROCESSES

ISSUE	TECHNICAL	STRATEGIC
Several similar requirements to be fulfilled under UNFCCC rules (NAPAs/ NAPs, NAMAs, INDCs/NDCs, NC, BUR)	Both adaptation and mitigation covered, similar procedures and technical issues, while accounting for the specificities related to adaptation Use common methods and methodologies and approaches	Coordination at the central level Same department/expertise to be involved, similar procedures Monitor and drive UNFCCC negotiations around (I)NDCs accountability rules
Sustainable development strategies and goals	In general weak or average integration into the (I)NDCs Lack of reference to Sustainable Development Goals and the national development strategy	Existing institutional framework on climate change can serve for SDG implementation
Ensuring the planning done for previous plans/documents is valued for the NDCs	Data consistency and quality	Integrating previous work/approach into NDCs
Ensuring long-term perspective, cross-sector approach	Addressing all factors affecting population (not only climate change) and harnessing co-benefits	Climate policies are integrated into development strategies National priority areas for SIDS and LDCs taken into account
NDCs implementation	Understanding and enhancing NDCs Increasing knowledge among all stakeholders, including public and private sector as well as citizens Launching pilot projects and replicating successful projects	Leverage political support at the highest level Translate NDCs into sectoral public policies and actions plans
Mobilize/access funding (including from different sources, e.g. domestic, private, international,...) and enhancing effectiveness of funding and resources	Capacity building for accessing and absorbing climate finance Estimates the amount needed/indicate investment costs sources by sector or for specific measures Assessing effectiveness of financial resources deployed for climate action Developing high-quality investment proposals capable of attracting funding	Prioritisation of actions/areas to intervene Mobilising finance from diverse sources Creating an enabling environment for private sector investment in climate mitigation and adaptation



GUIDING CONSIDERATIONS

- (i) What countries have made most progress in the implementation of their (I)NDC this year? Why/how?
- (ii) How to promote the linkages between the wider national development strategies and the (I)NDCs (e.g. energy is very relevant in most of the INDC submitted)?
- (iii) What are the main challenges for LDCs and SIDS to take their (I)NDC forward?
- (iv) What actions should be undertaken by GCCA+?



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