

NDC Features and information for clarity, Transparency and Understanding

the 2016 APR's Knowledge Product

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THIS PRESENTATION

AGENDA

- What are NDC features and what is information for CTU?
- Features, I-CTU, accounting, ETF, GST
- Are features features? What additional guidance?

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THE KNOWLEDGE PRODUCT

The Knowledge Product (KP) was inspired – mostly selection of topic and approach – by the 2016 APR discussions, but

It does not attempt to reflect those discussions

The paper recognizes but does not address different views from different Parties and therefore does not discuss opposing arguments put forward in relation to the key questions.

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THE STARTING QUESTIONS FOR THE KP

What are NDC features?

What is the difference between these features and the (accompanying) information for CTU?

What accounting implications arise from such features and information for CTU?

How do features and accompanying information relate to the transparency modalities, procedures and guidelines and to the ambition mechanism associated with the global stocktake (GST)

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WHAT ARE NDC FEATURES?

The only reference to features in the PA is in paragraph 26, decision 1/CP.21:

the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA) to ‘develop further guidance on features of nationally determined contributions’.

With no other indication, different interpretations were inevitable:

- New features only?
- Existing features only?
- New and existing features?
- Are features the same as information for CTU?
 - Is this a perfect match?
 - Is there an overlap, but are they distinct?
 - They are completely different issues?

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WHAT DOES ARTICLE 4 SAY?

Does **NOT** say “features”!

Includes a list of characteristics or elements that must be found in NDCs:

- represent a progression from previous NDCs;**
- represent the highest possible ambition (and, whenever required, be adjusted for that purpose);**
- include economy-wide emissions reduction targets (for developed countries);**
- move over time towards economy-wide emissions reduction or limitation targets (developing countries);**
- be communicated every five years;**
- be informed by the outcomes of the GST;**
- be accounted for in order to promote environmental integrity, transparency, accuracy, completeness, comparability and consistency and to avoid double counting.**

Time frames to be considered by CMA.

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INFORMATION FOR CTU

Paragraph 27 of Decision 1/CP.21:

information Parties must submit along with their NDC in order to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding (referred to in this section as CTU information) of the NDCs themselves. This CTU information may include among other things, and as appropriate, the following quantifiable information:

- reference points (including, as appropriate, a base year);
- implementation time frames and/or periods;
- scope and coverage;
- planning processes;
- assumptions and methodological approaches including those for estimating and accounting for anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and, as appropriate, removals; and
- the extent to which the Party considers its NDC to be fair and ambitious in light of its national circumstances, and the extent to which the NDC contributes to achieving the objective of the UNFCCC as set out in its article 2

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INFORMATION FOR CTU AND FEATURES

Paragraph 28 of Decision 1/CP.21 creates a parallel between features and I-CTU, by using same language as Paragraph 26 on features:

Requests the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement to develop further guidance for the information to be provided by Parties in order to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding of nationally determined contributions

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ACCOUNTING, THE ETF AND GST

Article 4 paragraph 13 of the Paris Agreement states that:

‘Parties shall account for their nationally determined contributions’

Article 13.5 of the Paris Agreement states that

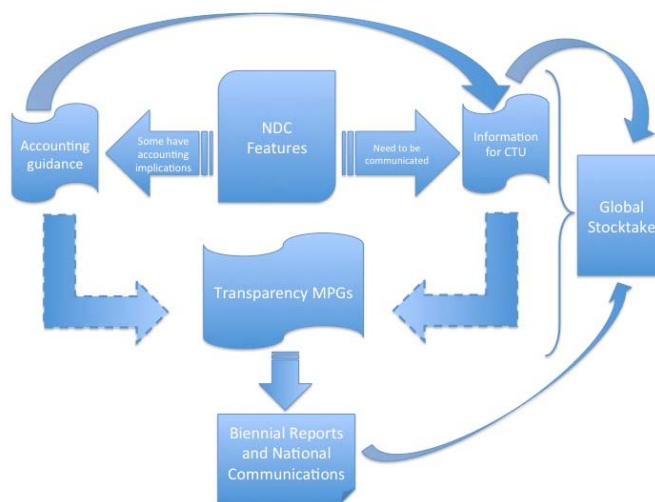
‘The purpose of the framework for transparency of action is to provide [...] clarity and tracking of progress towards achieving Parties’ individual nationally determined contributions under Article 4’.

Article 4 states that:

[NDCs are to] be informed by the outcomes of the GST;

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PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER



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DEFINITIONS

- **A feature is defined as ‘a typical quality or an important part of something’** <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/feature>
- **An NDC feature can therefore be understood as an important element of, a characteristic of or an element that one expects to find in an NDC**
- **The overlap, the confusion between features and I-CTU:**
 - All referred to generally as **elements**

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WHAT ELEMENTS?

- **Reference points (including, as appropriate, a base year)**
- **Times frames or periods for implementation**
- **The scope and coverage**
- **A planning process**
- **Assumptions and methodological approaches**
- **Fairness, ambition, and a progression beyond the current NDC**
- **Ensuring the NDC is informed by the outcomes of the global stocktake and contributes towards achieving the ultimate objective of the UNFCCC as set out in its article 2**
- **Identification of support needs and the level of conditionality of implementation to the support received**
- **Use of cooperative approaches under article 6 for achieving the contribution**
- **Inclusion of sinks and reservoirs, including forests, in the NDC**
- **A mitigation component**
- **An adaptation component.**

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EACH ELEMENT

- **Is it a feature?**
- **Is further guidance on the element, as a feature, required?**
- **Is further guidance on the element, regarding I-CTU, required?**
- **Does the element have accounting implications?**
- **Should the ETF MPGs address the element?**